**Elizabeth South Primary School –**

**Sun Protection Policy 2025**

Last updated: March 2025

This sun protection policy has been developed to:

* encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever ultraviolet (UV) Index levels reach 3 and above
* work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times
* assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
* ensure families and staff are informed of the school’s sun protection policy
* understand the balance of UV radiation exposure is important for health

**Rationale**

A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun’s UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a critical factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. Sensible sun protection whenever UV is 3 and above does not put people at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

**Sun Protection**

Elizabeth South Primary School uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities on and off site during terms 1, 3 and 4.

Staff are encouraged to access the daily sun protection times on the SunSmart app, myuv.com.au or bom.gov.au/sa/uv to assist with implementing this policy for students and themselves.

It is an expectation that all staff, students and parents of Elizabeth South Primary School will use the following sun protection strategies.

**Hats**

All staff and students are required to wear Sun Smart hats in Terms 1, 3 and 4. Broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style hats that shade the head, face, ears and neck provide the best sun protection. Where hats are not accessible, a ‘no hat, play in the shade’ approach to sun protection is in place.

**Shade**

Outdoor activities are held in shaded areas where possible and rest areas are provided in the shade for use during breaks. Students and staff will use the shade of trees, pergolas and tents whenever outdoors.

**Clothing**

Staff and students will wear appropriate clothing that protects the skin. Sun protective clothing is included in the Uniform Policy.

**Sunscreen**

Parents will be encouraged to apply a 50+ sunscreen on their children, before they come to school. Students will be supervised to ensure they apply and reapply sunscreen to all exposed skin. Sunscreen will be available in the classroom for children to apply when/if required. Strategies are in place to remind students to apply and reapply sunscreen before going outdoors.

**Curriculum**

Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the Australian Curriculum.

The information has been extracted from the [Cancer Council SunSmart in Schools](https://www.cancer.org.au/cancer-information/causes-and-prevention/sun-safety/be-sunsmart/sunsmart-in-schools)

Staff will reinforce and role model the Sun Smart message in all school activities and in general school procedures as it is an important strategy in the adoption of the skin protection behaviours.

Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities, in student enrolment packs and on the schools website.