

# Robertstown Primary School Sun Protection Policy



*Robertstown Primary School acknowledge the Ngadjeri people, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, work and play. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.*

## Purpose:

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Most skin damage happens during childhood and can lead to skin cancer later in life. Our school aims to protect students from harmful sun exposure and promote sun-safe behaviours.

## Goals:

- Encourage positive attitudes towards sun protection.
- Promote lifestyle habits that reduce skin cancer risk.
- Foster personal responsibility for sun safety.
- Raise awareness about the need for sun-safe environments.

## Implementation:

This policy applies during Terms 1, 3, and 4, and whenever UV levels are 3 or above. We will check daily sun protection times using the Bureau of Meteorology website or the SunSmart app. Outdoor events will include sun protection measures.

## Guidelines:

### 1. General Sun Protection:

- Students must wear a bucket hat in Terms 1, 3, and 4. Baseball caps are not allowed.
- Students without hats will play in the shade.
- School uniforms should include tops with collars and longer sleeves, and longer shorts, dresses, and skirts. Rash tops or t-shirts are encouraged for swimming.
- Students without appropriate clothing should stay in shaded areas.
- Encourage use of shaded areas for play.
- Schedule outdoor activities in shaded areas or earlier in the day.
- Staff will model sun-safe behaviour by wearing appropriate hats, sunglasses, and clothing, and using sunscreen.

### 2. School Responsibilities:

- Provide hats that meet Cancer Council South Australia (CCSA) guidelines.
- Supply SPF 30+ sunscreen for staff and students.
- Include skin cancer prevention in the curriculum.
- Allow students to eat lunch inside or in the shade.
- Regularly communicate the SunSmart Policy through newsletters and meetings.
- Ensure adequate shade at events and conduct regular shade audits.
- Plan outdoor lessons in shaded areas or in the morning when UV levels are high.
- On days where the temperature is above 36 degrees, students will be offered inside play.

### 3. For New Enrolments:

- Inform parents about the Sun Protection Policy.
- Provide a free school hat upon enrolment, with replacements available for purchase.
- Supply suitable sunscreen for student use.
- Encourage parents to model sun-safe behaviours during school activities.

### Ultraviolet (UV) radiation:

The UV index is an international standard measurement of the strength of UV from the sun on the ground at a particular time. As the UV index increases, the risk of sunburn and irreversible damage to your skin increases.

UV index	Exposure category
2 or below	Low
3 to 5	Moderate
6 to 7	High
8 to 10	Very high
11+	Extreme

*A UV index of 3 is high enough to damage unprotected skin and eyes.*

*Cancer Council SA recommends that you use sun protection measures if you're outdoors whenever the UV index is 3 and above.*

*Times of the day when UV is 3 and above are known as 'sun protection times'.*

UV radiation is not related to hot weather, it can't be seen or felt, it can be reflected off surfaces, it can damage all skin types and is at its peak at the middle of the day.

The UV rating will be monitored by staff across the school day.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

The school provides SPF50+ sun cream and students are offered at each break to apply and reapply.

If families wish to provide individual sunscreens for students with allergies, these can be provided to the school and labelled for ease of access.

The Governing Council and staff will review this policy regularly to ensure its effectiveness and make updates as needed.