REDWOOD PARK SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL TO YEAR 6

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Redwood Park School

Policy owner	Redwood Park School
Applies to	Students, staff, volunteers, visitors and school activities on and off site
Policy reviewed	September 2026
Next review	September 2027

1. Purpose

Redwood Park School is committed to protecting students, staff and the wider school community from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. This policy establishes practical, consistent sun protection practices and supports students to develop lifelong SunSmart habits.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, volunteers and visitors participating in Redwood Park School activities, including excursions, camps, sport and other off-site activities.

3. When sun protection is required

Sun protection measures are used whenever the UV Index is 3 or above. Daily local sun protection times and UV levels will be checked using reliable sources such as the SunSmart app/widget or Bureau of Meteorology UV information. In South Australia, UV levels are commonly 3 or above from August to the end of April, but sun protection will also be used at any other time of year when the UV reaches 3 or above.

When the UV Index is below 3, routine sun protection is generally not required unless students or staff will be outdoors for extended periods, are near highly reflective surfaces, or have individual sun protection needs.

4. SunSmart protection measures

Redwood Park School uses a combination of the five SunSmart measures during Terms 1, 3 and 4 whenever the UV Index is 3 or above at other times: Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide.

4.1 Clothing - Slip

- Students are expected to wear the school uniform or other sun-protective clothing that covers as much skin as practical, including shoulders and upper torso.
- For outdoor water activities, rash vests or T-shirts are required where appropriate.
- Clothing that exposes large areas of the shoulders or upper torso, such as singlet, tank, strappy or midriff tops, is not considered suitable sun-protective clothing.

4.2 Sunscreen - Slop

- Redwood Park School recommends SPF 50 or SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
- When the UV Index is predicted to be 3 or above early in the day, students are encouraged to apply sunscreen on arrival with a parent/guardian or before arriving at school.
- Students are encouraged and reminded to apply sunscreen at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and to reapply every 2 hours when outdoors, or more frequently after swimming, sweating or towel-drying.
- Students will be required to reapply their own sunscreen at appropriate times during the school day when the UV Index is 3 or above. Staff will provide age-appropriate reminders and supervision.
- Students may provide their own named sunscreen. School sunscreen will also be available and accessible in designated locations, subject to parent/guardian information about allergies, sensitivities or individual requirements.
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool, dry place and expiry dates will be checked regularly.

4.3 Hats - Slap

- When sun protection is required, students and staff are expected to wear a sun-safe hat that protects the face, neck and ears. Suitable styles include broad-brimmed, legionnaire and bucket hats.
- Baseball caps and visors do not provide adequate protection for the ears and neck and are not considered sun-safe hats.
- Students without an appropriate hat will use available shaded or suitably protected areas for outdoor activities.

4.4 Shade - Seek

- The school will provide and make effective use of natural and built shade, particularly in high-use outdoor areas.
- Students are encouraged to use shaded areas for outdoor learning, play and breaks.
- Outdoor activities will be planned to maximise shade and, where practical, rescheduled or modified during periods of high UV exposure.
- The school will regularly review the adequacy and practical use of shade and consider additional trees, structures or portable shade where needed.

4.5 Sunglasses - Slide

- Students and staff may wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the relevant Australian Standard for sunglasses. Sunglasses are used together with, not instead of, other sun protection measures.

5. Outdoor activities, excursions and sport

- Sun protection measures apply to all outdoor school activities whenever the UV Index is 3 or above.
- Staff planning excursions, camps, sports days, swimming and other outdoor events will consider daily sun protection times, access to shade, drinking water, clothing, hats and sunscreen.
- Particular care will be taken during periods of intense UV. Where practical, outdoor activities will be scheduled outside peak UV periods, moved to shaded areas, shortened or relocated indoors.

6. Extreme heat and hot surfaces

Sun protection and heat management are related but separate risks. Staff will monitor weather forecasts and official warnings and adjust activities to protect student and staff wellbeing during severe heat.

- Outdoor play and learning areas will be checked for hot surfaces and equipment. Areas assessed as unsafe will not be used until conditions are safe.
- Students will have ready access to drinking water and will be encouraged to drink regularly, with additional reminders in hot weather.
- Outdoor activities may be reduced, relocated to shade or moved indoors during severe heat or other unsafe weather conditions.

- Air-conditioned or cooler indoor spaces will be used when appropriate.

7. Role modelling and staff responsibilities

- Staff will model SunSmart behaviours by using appropriate hats, clothing, sunscreen and shade when the UV Index is 3 or above.
- Staff will monitor daily UV levels and sun protection times and communicate relevant expectations to students.
- Staff will actively encourage students to use sun protection measures and will support age-appropriate independence in sunscreen application.
- Sun protection is recognised as a work health and safety consideration for staff with occupational UV exposure.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures when participating in or attending outdoor school activities.

8. Education and communication

- Sun protection will be incorporated into learning and wellbeing programs where appropriate.
- SunSmart expectations will be communicated to students, staff, families, volunteers and visitors.
- Families will be encouraged to support the policy by providing appropriate hats, clothing and personal sunscreen where preferred.
- The policy will be readily available to the school community.

9. Inclement weather

During extreme heat, severe storms, heavy rainfall, strong winds or unusually cold conditions, student and staff safety will be prioritised. The school will monitor forecasts and official warnings and may adjust, restrict or relocate outdoor activities. Access to shelter, hydration and suitable clothing will be maintained, and families will be advised of significant changes to normal arrangements when required.

10. Review and continuous improvement

This policy will be reviewed annually, and earlier if guidance changes or an incident, risk assessment or school review identifies a need. Redwood Park School will review the policy against current Cancer Council SunSmart guidance as part of maintaining SunSmart recognition.

11. Key references

- Cancer Council Australia - Be SunSmart and UV Index guidance.
- Cancer Council Australia - SunSmart in schools and early childhood; National SunSmart school policy resources (2026).
- Bureau of Meteorology - UV Index and weather warnings.
- Department for Education South Australia - relevant health, safety, excursions and inclement weather guidance.
- Australian Standards relevant to sunscreen, sunglasses, sun-protective clothing, shade and playground equipment, as applicable.

2026 update summary: UV trigger corrected to “3 or above”; sunscreen wording updated to SPF 50 or SPF 50+ broad-spectrum water-resistant; all preschool-specific references removed and replaced with Redwood Park School terminology; content simplified and aligned to current national Cancer Council SunSmart school guidance.