

Policy Statement

Sun Protection (Students)

This policy follows the authority provided in Australian National Standards for Eye and Face Protection; Playground equipment and surfacing and Sun Protective Clothing; and was written in consultation with Cancer Council SA's SunSmart Program.

The Hazard – Sun Exposure Too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, and two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer before aged 70. Melanoma is the most common cancer in Australians aged 12-24 years, and sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a critical factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

St Martins Lutheran College's Policy

St Martins Lutheran College is committed to providing a safe working environment for all our students, workers and visitors.

It is our policy to:

- increase student and community awareness about skin cancer and sun protection
- encourage the entire College community to use a combination of sun protection measures
- work towards a safe college environment that provides shade for students, staff and the College community
- assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure that families and new staff are informed of this policy
- support student duty of care requirements
- support appropriate workplace safety strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Sun Protection Strategies

St Martins Lutheran College has developed the following sun protection strategies:

General

- Staff and/or students check the daily local sun protection times. The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day that UV levels are forecast to reach three or above. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types.
- All students and staff use a combination of sun protection measures throughout the day to ensure they are well protected. Particular care must be taken in summer months between 10 am and 3 pm when UV levels are at the highest.
- This policy is considered when planning all outdoor events (e.g. assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events).
- UV levels reach 3 and above from 1 August until 30 April; the College will need to use a combination of sun protection measures during terms 1, 3 and 4.
- Depending on activities, all staff are encouraged to monitor the UV levels in May and use sun protection on those days when UV is 3 and above.

Shade

- The College makes sure there is sufficient shelter and trees providing shade in the college grounds particularly in areas where students congregate (e.g. lunch areas, canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas).
- Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Playgrounds should be designed with areas of effective summer shade from either trees or built elements, or both. Playgrounds which comply with Australian Standard AS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and

surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation, are encouraged but optional.

- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and outdoor activities.
- Students are actively encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside. Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to stay in an area protected from the sun.

Hats

- Students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears whenever they are outside.
- Recommended sun-safe hats include legionnaire, broad-brimmed and bucket hats. Baseball caps do not offer enough protection and are not recommended.
- Students who do not have an appropriate sun protective hat will be asked to stay in shaded areas only.

Sunglasses

- Close-fitting wrap-around sunglasses that comply with Australian Standards AS/NZS 1067.1 2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles, Part 1: Requirements (Sunglasses: lens category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible are encouraged but optional.

Role Modelling

- Staff act as role models by using a combination of sun protection measures as outlined above when the UV level is 3 or above.
- Families and visitors are also encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses and sunscreen) when participating in and attending outdoor college activities.

Curriculum

- Sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the college curriculum.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole College community.
- Sun safe behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole College community through newsletters, College public website, parent meetings, staff meetings, College assemblies, student and teacher activities and on student enrolment.

Uniform

Sun protective clothing is included in the College uniform/dress code and sports uniform. This includes clothing with:

- elbow length sleeves
- shirts and tops that cover shoulders, with a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone
- appropriate hats
- appropriate gloves and other accessories (where required for the activity)
- appropriate sunglasses
- other appropriate sun protective clothing.

Sun protective clothing with a UPF rating, in compliance with Australian Standard AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing – Evaluation and classification, is encouraged but optional.

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Scheduling and Planning

Sun protection is considered when planning all outdoor events (e.g. assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events).

Before commencing an inter-state excursion, the organising staff will check the daily local sun protection times of the relevant state/territory, and continue to monitor these times for the duration of the excursion.

Staff Responsibility

All staff must follow the guidelines as set out in this policy.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- staff and student training and awareness of issues relating to skin and safe sun exposure
- implementation of sun protection measures
- effective notification procedures
- effective communication procedures
- effective record keeping procedures
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

Discipline for Breach of Policy

Where a staff member breaches this policy St Martins Lutheran College may take disciplinary action.

Review

St Martins Lutheran College is committed to the continuous review and improvement of all its operations, including this policy.

It is the responsibility of the Principal to regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the Sun Protection Policy to ensure it is working in practice, and revise the policy when required.

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