



ACT
Government

Education

SUNSMART POLICY

NAMADGI SCHOOL



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SunSmart Policy

Policy Identifier: [added by Governance, Policy and Procedures] Published: June 2020 Policy is current until: June 2023

1. What is this policy about?

- 1.1. This policy aims to ensure that Namadgi School effectively implements behavioural, environmental and organisational strategies that protect children attending the school from the harmful effects of the sun.
- 1.2. This policy aims to promote among children, staff and parents
 - Awareness of the need for sun protection and appropriate personal, environmental and organisations sun protection policies
 - Positive attitudes towards skin protection
 - Responsible decision making about skin protection

2. Policy Statement

- 2.1. The Namadgi School SunSmart Policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending our school are protected as much as reasonably practicable from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
- 2.2. In Canberra sun protection is required for part or most of each day between August and May. The end of May is 'Hats Off Day' whilst the beginning of August is 'Hats on Again' for all of us.
- 2.3. Due to low (under 3) daily UV levels experienced in Canberra from June to July, ACT schools will not be required to enforce sun UV protection in this period. However sensible sun UV protection may still be warranted if spending extended period outdoors during these months i.e. at all day outdoor sporting events and excursions.
- 2.4. All workers, in providing for their own workplace protection, are also providing a role model for students
- 2.5. Students with no hat will be required to play in a well shaded area. This is informally known as 'No hat, Play in the shade'.
- 2.6. In meeting their sun protection duty of care objectives, Namadgi School are encouraged to join the Cancer Council's National Schools Program for policy support, resources, professional learning and training opportunities and to be acknowledged for their school's efforts in skin cancer control.

3. Who does this policy apply to?

- 3.1. This policy applies to all Namadgi School staff and students, including pre-service teachers and volunteers.

4. Context

- 4.1. This policy aims to protect students and workers, as far as reasonably practicable, from the dangers associated with over-exposure to the sun's UV.
- 4.2. Australia has amongst the highest rate of skin cancer in the world – at least 2 in 3 Australians will develop skin cancer before the age of 70. Exposure to UV is a major contributory factor in the development of skin cancer.
- 4.3. Childhood and adolescence are critical periods during which exposure to UV radiation is more likely to contribute to skin cancer in later life, including melanoma. UV exposure during the first 18 years of a person's life is the most critical risk factor for skin cancer and causes skin damage and premature aging. This is important to remember in the secondary school setting.

5. Rescheduling Outdoor Activities

- 5.1. Minimise the time spent outdoors between 11am and 3pm (Daylight Saving/Summertime). Some strategies might include:
 - Planning all day outdoor events i.e. athletic/swimming carnivals not to occur during the peak UV period of the year when the risk of sunburn is significantly increased
 - Timetabling outdoor physical activities, excursions and outdoor classes earlier in the day
 - Holding assemblies indoors, under shade or at lower UV times
 - Making lunch times shorter and morning breaks longer
 - Keeping students indoors or under shade at lunch times, until they have eaten their lunch

6. Responsibilities

- 6.1. All staff are responsible for adhering to this policy by ensuring they are following SunSmart procedures and implementing this with their students.
- 6.2. **Principal:** The principal will be responsible for implementation but there may be other people (e.g. teachers, executive) who have direct responsibilities.
- 6.3. **Policy Owner:** Namadgi School is responsible for this policy.

7. Monitoring and review

- 7.1. As a member of the National SunSmart Schools program since 2013, this policy will be reviewed every three years by Cancer Council ACT. It will be updated where necessary to maintain high national SunSmart standards.
- 7.2. The next review by Cancer Council ACT will be in March 2023.
- 7.3. For support contact Namadgi School 02 6142 0900 or email info@namadgi.act.edu.au

8. Complaints

- 8.1. Any concerns about the application of this policy or the policy itself, should be raised with:

- the school principal in the first instance;
- the Family, Students Complaints and Feedback team on (02) 6205 5429.
- online at
https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/forms/etd_liaison_feedback ;
- See also the Complaints Policy on the Directorate’s website:
<https://www.education.act.gov.auReferences>


8.2. Definitions

- Duty of Care: legal duty of care requires that teachers and workers should take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety of a school student under their care. This duty of care will arise wherever a student/teacher-worker relationship exists.
- Parents/Carers: people with parental responsibility and guardians.
- Workers: teachers and staff employed by the Directorate.
- Sensible: covering as much skin as possible from UV levels.
- Sunburn: a radiation burn to the skin
- UV or UVR: Ultraviolet Radiation

8.3. Legislation

- Education and Care Services National Law ACT 2010
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

8.4. Implementation Documents

- Sun UV Protection Students Policy ( 80.3 KB)
- Uniform Policy – Namadgi School

8.5. Related Policies and Information

- Cancer Council Generation SunSmart Professional Learning online modules
- National Schools Program
- Personal Protection Equipment Procedure

SunSmart Accreditation Certificate

<https://actcancer.org/prevention/sunsmart/act-schools-and-early-childhood-services/national-schools-program/view-your-sunsmart-certificate/showstatus/namadgi-school>