



Sun Protection Policy

CONTEXT STATEMENT

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. At Samaritan College, the Sun Protection Policy is designed to protect members of the College community from over-exposure to the UV rays of the sun. Practising sun protection in early childhood and adolescence could prevent many skin cancers. These practices will be applied to all outdoor activities including sports carnivals, excursions, retreats and camps, but excludes formal sports games in which the wearing of a hat is a not part of the sports uniform code e.g. football, soccer, etc. Under these circumstances the use of other forms of sun protection will apply. These practices are implemented throughout the school year through the 'no hat no play' rule for students at both the primary and secondary campuses and is modeled by staff when engaged in any outdoor activity. The College adheres to the guidelines issued by the Cancer Council SA. It is recommended these protection measures are used during terms 1, 3 and 4, and at any other time the UV Index Level reaches three and above.

UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS, PHILOSOPHY & RATIONALE

We at Samaritan College acknowledge:

- All students and staff have a right to a safe school environment which provides shade and other practical sun protection measures;
- Increased student and community awareness about skin cancer is important in its prevention.

PURPOSES / AIMS

Through the application of this policy, Samaritan College will promote:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection;
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin damage;
- Personal responsibility for, and decision-making about skin protection;
- Awareness of the importance of environmental conditions in the College to reduce exposure to the sun.

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE

In support of this policy Samaritan College will:

- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness in the curriculum;
- Ensure the recommended information and procedures for sun protection are accessible by staff, parents/caregivers and students, through the staff information sheets, College diary and other means;
- Ensure the school uniform provides adequate protection from the sun;
- Ensure the school has sufficient shade or is working towards increasing the number of trees and shade structures so as to provide adequate sun protected areas in the school grounds
- Supply SPF 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen for staff and students.
- Put in place skin protection practice during terms 1, 3 and 4, and when the UV radiation level is three and above at all other times. This practice includes OSHC and Vacation care programs.
- Support student and staff decisions not to wear hats at times of the year when UV radiation levels are below three.

The Principal will:

- Be responsible for the overall implementation of the sun protection policy and procedures;
- Inform parents/caregivers during student enrolment of the College's sun protection policy.

The Staff will:

- Ensure they comply with the College's policy on sun protection and model appropriate behaviour by wearing hats, approved ultra-violet radiation rated sunglasses and sunscreen when outdoors and wear clothing with collars and sleeves during terms 1, 3 and 4, and at any other time the UV Index Level reaches 3 and above.
- Ensure all students are following the sun protection guidelines stipulated in the College's rules and procedures;
- Report to parents/caregivers on repeated or serious breaches of this policy;
- Ensure care is taken during the peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times where possible. Sports day and other outdoor events to be held at twilight or during second and third terms where practical.
- Ensure a combination of skin protection measures are considered when planning outdoor events (i.e. camps, excursions, sporting activities, swimming carnivals).
- Encourage students to actively use available areas of shade when outdoors.
- Direct students who do not have appropriate hats to play in an area protected from the sun.
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviours including appropriate hat wearing when outdoors.
- Where appropriate encourage the use of sunglasses that have an Eye Protection Factor (EPF) rating of 10, are from category two, three or four and meet the Australian standard (AS/NZ 1067:2003)
- Take consistent and fair measures to assist students to follow the sun protection guidelines.

The Students will:

- Be responsible for following the 'no hat, no play' rule during all outdoor lessons and activities, including retreats, camps and excursions, as well as during lunch and recess breaks during terms 1, 3 and 4, and at any other time the UV Index Level reaches 3 and above;
- Stay in classrooms, on verandahs and other shaded or designated areas during recess and lunch breaks during hot weather days;
- Be encouraged to apply 30+SPF broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen 15 – 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours when outdoors;
- Be encouraged to wear sunglasses approved by the Cancer Council;
- Be expected to observe campus specific rules and procedures relating to the sun protection policy.

The Parents / Caregivers will:

- Undertake to support the College policy by ensuring their son or daughter is complying with the sun protection policy;
- Undertake to model sun protection behaviours to reinforce this policy.

The College Board will:

- Support the provision of the necessary budget resources for shaded areas and other required sun protection resources;
- Participate in the development, implementation and review of this policy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Samaritan College Vision Statement
- Samaritan College Student Diary
- Staff Information Sheets
- Samaritan College Newsletter and Website
- [Cancer Council SA SunSmAr secondary school policy guidelines;](#)
- [Cancer Council SA Primary schools and Out of School Hours Care.](#)

ADMINISTRATION

This policy will be reviewed triennially by the College unless otherwise required.

Review Date: June 2019