



Bertram Primary School Sun Protection Policy



Rationale

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can cause sunburn, skin damage, eye damage, and skin cancer. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. Over exposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is known to be a major cause of skin cancer.

Our sun protection policy has been adopted to ensure all staff and students attending Bertram Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation. This policy is implemented throughout the year. The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. The policy is shared with the whole school community.

Our Commitment

1. Policy & Leadership

Bertram Primary School maintains a written Sun Protection Policy that is:

- Endorsed by the School Council and Principal.
- Reviewed annually to ensure alignment with current SunSmart WA guidelines.
- Distributed to all new staff at induction.
- Provided to families upon enrolment.
- Available on the school website and through the school office.
- Promoted regularly through newsletters, assemblies and school communications.

The school leadership team actively supports and models SunSmart behaviours.

2. Outdoor Planning & UV Monitoring

- The daily UV Index is accessed via the SunSmart app or Bureau of Meteorology.
- When the UV Index is **3 or above**, SunSmart practices are implemented.
- Outdoor activities are scheduled outside peak UV periods where practicable (generally before 10am and after 3pm or as far from solar noon as possible).
- When UV levels are extreme (e.g. 10+), the Inclement Weather Policy is enacted and outdoor activities are modified, relocated or postponed.
- Sun protection requirements apply to all school events, including excursions, camps and sporting carnivals.

3. Clothing & Hats (Mandatory Requirements)

Students:

- Must wear a SunSmart hat (broad-brimmed minimum 7.5cm brim, bucket minimum 6cm brim, or legionnaire style) whenever outdoors.
- Students without an appropriate hat must remain in designated shaded areas ("No hat, play in the shade").
- The school dress code includes sun protective clothing:
 - Shirts with collars and sleeves (covering shoulders).
 - Closely woven fabrics.

Staff:

- Are required to wear SunSmart hats and sun protective clothing during outdoor duties and activities.
- Model SunSmart behaviours at all times.

Parents & Visitors:

- Are encouraged to wear SunSmart hats and protective clothing when attending outdoor school events.

Sun protective requirements (hat, clothing, sunscreen) are clearly stated on all excursion, camp and sporting permission forms.

4. Sunscreen

- SPF 30+ (or higher), broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is promoted and encouraged.
- Sunscreen is provided by the school in all learning areas.
- Students are given time to apply sunscreen before outdoor activities (before school, prior to lunch, PE, sport, excursions and camps).
- Staff supervise and encourage correct application practices.
- Families are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their child before school each day.

5. Shade Provision

- Adequate shade is provided across the school grounds.
- Priority areas include:
 - Eating areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Outdoor learning spaces
 - Assembly areas
 - Waiting areas
- Shade provision includes both built structures and natural shade (tree planting).
- Shade availability is considered when planning outdoor events.
- The school conducts periodic shade audits and plans for continuous improvement.

6. Curriculum

Sun protection education is embedded within the Health and Physical Education curriculum and other relevant learning areas.

Students:

- Learn about UV radiation and its effects.
- Develop skills to make informed sun-safe decisions.
- Participate in SunSmart awareness initiatives.

7. Community Partnerships & Promotion

- SunSmart behaviours are promoted across the whole school community.
- Families are encouraged to reinforce SunSmart practices at home.
- The school community is informed of policy updates and expectations.
- SunSmart messaging is visible within the school environment.

8. Monitoring & Review

Bertram Primary School will:

- Review this policy annually.
- Monitor hat compliance and SunSmart behaviours.
- Evaluate shade usage and effectiveness.
- Seek feedback from staff, students and parents.
- Update the policy in line with current SunSmart WA recommendations.

Staff Work Health & Safety (WHS)

Bertram Primary School recognises that exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation is an occupational health and safety risk for staff who work outdoors.

To minimise occupational UV exposure, the school will:

- Implement SunSmart strategies whenever the UV Index is 3 or above.

- Require staff to wear SunSmart hats (broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style) during all outdoor duties and activities.
- Encourage the wearing of sun protective clothing that covers shoulders and upper arms.
- Provide access to SPF 30+ (or higher), broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff use.
- Encourage staff to reapply sunscreen every two hours when outdoors.
- Schedule outdoor duties, where practicable, outside peak UV periods.
- Provide and maintain adequate shade in high-use outdoor areas.
- Support staff in raising WHS concerns related to UV exposure.

The school acknowledges its duty of care to provide a safe working environment and will take reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise UV exposure risks.

Accreditation Compliance Summary

This policy addresses the core SunSmart WA accreditation requirements:

- ✓ Written and publicly available policy
- ✓ Annual review process
- ✓ Mandatory SunSmart hats
- ✓ Sun protective dress code
- ✓ Sunscreen access and promotion
- ✓ Shade provision and planning
- ✓ UV monitoring and activity scheduling
- ✓ Curriculum integration
- ✓ Staff role modelling
- ✓ Whole-school community engagement

Ratified SMG: 24/02/2026