



Mawarra Independent School

Sun Safe Policy

Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to ensure that children attending are appropriately protected from the harmful effects of the sun and that sun protection behaviours are integrated into daily practice.	
Scope:	Children, parents and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements.	
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland): Section 51(1)(a); 167 • Education and Care Services National Regulations: Regulations 114, 168(2)(a)(v) • National Quality Standard: Standard 2.3 – Element 2.3.2; 3.1 – Element 3.1.1 • Cancer Council Queensland • Cancer Council Queensland ECC SunSmart Policy • Guide to the National Quality Framework • www.sunsafety.qld.gov.au • Kidsafe Factsheet: Sun Exposure • Cancer Council SunSmart App • Mawarra Independent School Sun Safe Procedure • Mawarra Independent School Managing Medical Conditions Policy • Mawarra Independent School Work Health & Safety Policy 	
Authorised by:	Principal	Date of Authorisation: January 2022
Review Date:	Every two years	Next Review Date: January 2024
Policy Owner:	School Management Committee	



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Policy Statement

Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. Given that children are in school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, all schools play a major role in both minimising children's UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term behaviour. ([Cancer Council Queensland](#))

Mawarra Independent School recognises the importance of the health and safety of the children in our care and is committed to providing a safe and accountable procedure for sun protection.

Mawarra recognises the need for children and School Team members to be safe whilst in the sun. The Sun Care policy applies during all seasons and temperatures, during sunny and cloudy weather.

Mawarra Independent School will:

- Ensure provision and maintenance of adequate, variable and quality shaded areas
- Ensure that children and employees wear sun protective hats while outside - NO HAT, NO PLAY policy
- Where possible, plan outdoor daily activities outside of peak UV times
- Set up outdoor play activities in shaded areas and encourage our children to use these areas
- Require children and employees to wear sun protective clothing, such as tops with sleeves
- Sunscreen will be available in each classroom for use by students. Ensure the use of SPF 30+, or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
- Parents have the option to provide their own sunscreen for their child to use at school. Parents are to make their children aware of where the sunscreen is kept and how to apply it themselves when necessary (needs parental authorisation).
- Support the wearing of sunglasses by children and employees
- Include learning activities that promote sun protection

Definitions

Definitions relevant to this policy include:

Hat: for the purposes of appropriate sun protection at this service, a hat means one that covers the face, neck and ears such as a broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style.

Sunscreen: sunscreen is SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum and water resistant.

Sunglasses: preferably close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet Australian Standard AS4067



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Responsibilities

Mawarra Independent School has the following role and responsibilities:

- Embed sun safe practices in the school's daily routine and remain aware of current views about sun safe practices in relation to children's health safety and welfare
- Ensure procedures are in place to support sun safe behaviours by children, families, employees and visitors
- Consider shade availability and sun safe practice when planning outdoor events and excursions
- Ensure parents/carers have indicated on Enrolment form, any allergies or cultural requirements that may affect sun safe behaviours
- Outdoor activities to be minimized between 10am-3pm where possible
- Staff encourage children to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and to reapply every 2 hours when outdoors for extended periods
- Make available SPF 30 or higher sunscreen
- Where practical, children are encouraged to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standards AS1067 (Sunglasses Category 2,3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible
- Address needs of parents of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and their children to ensure sun safety is understood and alternatives provided if necessary
- Regularly reinforce and promote SunSmart behaviour to the whole organisational community (children, employees, families and visitors) and via newsletters, website, social media posts, parent/teacher meetings and through enrolment and employee orientations
- Ensure educators receive appropriate information and training to fulfil their roles effectively with regards to sun protection and sun safe practice

Educators

Educators of Mawarra Independent School have the following role and responsibilities:

- Be aware of and act in accordance with Mawarra Independent School Sun Protection Policy, sun safe procedures and practices
- Model and demonstrate sun safe behaviour
- Encourage children to use available shade



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Families

Families at Mawarra Independent School have the following role and responsibilities:

- Be aware of and act in accordance with Mawarra Independent School Sun Protection Policy, sun safe procedures and practices
- Provide accurate and up to date information on their child's enrolment form
- Comply with the service sunscreen application recording procedure.

Implementation

Mawarra Independent School will implement the following measures in order to ensure children and employees are protected adequately from the sun, and that sun safe behaviours are embedded into everyday practice:

- Awareness - regularly raise awareness of all aspects of sun protection, including the development and implementation of this Policy
- Training – provide educators with access to appropriate training and up to date information on sun protection and sun safe practices
- Record keeping, monitoring, reporting – keep appropriate records, monitor and report on sun safe practice within the service in line with the school's sun safe procedures and health and hygiene procedures.

Compliance and Monitoring

In line with the *Education and Care Service National Regulations*, Mawarra Independent School will ensure that:

- Copies of this policy and any related procedures are readily accessible and available for inspection by the Nominated Supervisor, employees and families, and
- Parents of children enrolled at Mawarra Independent School are notified at least 14 days before the school makes any change to a policy or procedure that may have a significant impact on the school's provision of education and care to any child enrolled.