



ELIMBAH STATE SCHOOL



School Road ELIMBAH QLD 4516 | P: 07 5432 1333 | F: 07 54321300
E: the.principal@elimbahss.eq.edu.au | www.elimbahss.eq.edu.au

Elimbah State School Sun Protection Policy

This policy applies to all school events on and off-site.

Purpose

This Sun Protection policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support duty of care requirements; and
- support appropriate WH&S strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Background

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

Given students and employees are at school during peak UV times, schools play a major role in providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term SunSmart behaviour.

Our Sun Protection policy has been developed to ensure that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending Elimbah State School are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

Legislation and Standards

<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-2011-018>

<https://education.qld.gov.au/students/student-health-safety-wellbeing/student-health/sun-safety-strategies>

<https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/education/management/Pages/Managing-Risks-in-School-Curriculum-Activities.aspx>

<https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/education/management/Pages/Student-Dress-Code.aspx>

Procedures

Our school recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. The implementation of this policy will therefore be conducted throughout the year.

The purpose of this SunSmart policy is to ensure that all children attending our school are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

1. Seek shade

- The Principal, in consultation with staff, students and parents, ensures there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas e.g. where students have lunch, tuckshop, assemblies, sports, outdoor lessons and popular play spaces.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- In consultation with stakeholders, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

2. Slip on sun protective clothing

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirts with collars and elbow-length sleeves, longer dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.



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3. Slap on a hat

- All students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket hat), whenever they are outside. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

4. Slop on sunscreen

- Students are encouraged to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before coming to school.
- The school supplies SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use.
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (which state to apply at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
- Sunscreen is stored in a cool place, out of the sun and the expiry date is monitored.

5. Slide on sunglasses (if practical)

- Where practical students are encouraged to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

Learning and skills

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- We teach sun safety across Key Learning Areas in all year levels.
- Students understand why sun safety is important and learn how to take effective sun protection actions
- Teachers and staff are encouraged to complete Cancer Council's free Generation SunSmart online learning modules.

Engaging children, educators, staff and families

- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.
- As part of WH&S UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:
 - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
 - apply sunscreen; and
 - seek shade whenever possible.

Monitoring and review

- The Stakeholders monitor and review the effectiveness of the Elimbah State School Sun Protection Policy yearly and revise the policy every three years by completing a policy review and membership renewal with CC Queensland / SunSmart at <https://cancerqld.org.au/cancer-prevention/programs-resources/national-sunsmart-program/>. *Elimbah State School Sun Protection Policy* updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

Next policy review: February 2026

Authorisation

The Elimbah State School Principal, in consultation with school staff, P & C Association and the Student Executive endorses this policy.

This policy takes effect as of the date recorded below and is authorised by the Principal, Shelley Butcher:
20/02/2023



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Relevant documents / links

- [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers](#) (APST) – Standard 4.4 and 7.2
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)
- AS 4174:2018 Knitted and woven shade fabrics
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 2604:2012 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: [4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product](#)
- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.6.2.1: General considerations, 6.3.9: Shade and sun protection, Appendix A: Shade and sun protection

National Guidelines

- Cancer Council's SunSmart Position Statements: <https://www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/sunsmart-position-statements.html>
- Under the National Quality Framework early childhood education and care services are required to have a sun protection policy <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-law-regulations/national-law>
- Department of Education recommendations for sun safety within schools: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/sun/protection>
- Department of Education School Dress Code: <http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education/management/Procedure%20Attachments/Student%20Dress%20Code/student-dress-code.pdf>

Sun protection resources

- Cancer prevention resources: www.quest.org.au
- Monitor your areas daily UV: <http://www.myuv.com.au/>
- National SunSmart Program: <http://sunsmart.com.au/>
- Professional Development at Generation SunSmart: <https://www.generationsunsmart.com.au/>
- Department of Education sun safety educational materials: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/sun/resources>