



SUNSMART POLICY

1. Purpose

This SunSmart policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all children, educators and staff have some UV exposure for Vitamin D
- ensure all children, educators and staff are well protected from too much UV exposure by using a combination of sun protection measures during the daily local sun protection times
- ensure the outdoor environment is sun safe and provides shade for children, educators and staff
- ensure children are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills
- support duty of care and regulatory requirements
- support appropriate WHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harm for educators and staff

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, parents, students and volunteers of Blue Gum Montessori School (BGMS).

3. Policy Statement

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Research indicates that childhood and adolescent sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer. As students are at school during times when UV radiation levels tend to be the highest, schools play a role in minimising student's UV exposure and creating a supportive environment that minimises exposure and encourages sun protective behaviours.

BGMS is a Sun Smart School and has a strong commitment to sun protection. Our SunSmart Policy has been adopted from The Cancer Council of WA to ensure that all staff and students attending BGMS are protected as much as possible from skin damage caused by the sun's UV radiation. UV Radiation is part of the sun's light which burns and damages the skin. Children and adults can be sunburned in less than 10 minutes in some regions of Australia.

Schools have the potential to have a major impact on the level of sun exposure that students may sustain for the following reasons:

- children are at school throughout the high-risk period each day for five days a week
- the crucial period for sustaining damaging levels of sun exposure occurs during the school years
- schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through education

The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all outdoor school activities, including sports, excursions and camps, or other events where outdoor attendance is required.

Parents are asked to support the intentions of the SunSmart Policy in partnership with the School.

4. School Responsibilities

4.1 BGMS is committed to:

- informing parents of this SunSmart Policy when they enrol their child/children



- promoting sun protection via the website, newsletters, assemblies and school activities, and parent and staff meetings
- encourage parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities
- ensuring students to wear broad-brimmed hats when outside with a “yes hat, yes play” ruling
- ensuring students wear broad-brimmed hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission forms
- ensuring there is adequate provision of shade within the School grounds for students and staff, by planting trees and building shade structures. Particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch or outdoor lesson areas
- encouraging staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside
- ensuring that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events
- timetable as many outdoor activities as possible - including assemblies, sport and physical education- before 10 am and after 3 pm. When this is not possible, activities should be scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible
- encouraging the use of SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen by:
 - providing sunscreen in the classroom and outdoor play areas
 - allowing students time to apply sunscreen prior to outdoor activities e.g. prior to school, before lunch, PE lessons, sports, excursions etc.
 - incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the School curriculum
- brief all new staff on the SunSmart Policy
- lead by example with staff wearing broad-brimmed hats for all outdoor activities, including yard duty.

4.2 Parent / Carers / Guardians provide commitment to:

- ensure your child/children has/have a broad-brimmed hat/BGMS hat
- ensure that your child/children’s clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation. The Cancer Council WA recommends the following:
 - collars and sleeves
 - closely woven fabric
 - natural fibre
 - swim tops for swimming
- ensure that your child/children has/have access to SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before leaving for school
- act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour
- support the School’s SunSmart policy by providing feedback on the policy to the School

4.3 Students provide a commitment to:

- being aware of the School’s SunSmart policy
- take responsibility for their health by being SunSmart
- comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing endorsed hats and clothing
- apply SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before going outdoors
- use shaded or covered areas outdoors where possible
- act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- be actively involved in initiatives to protect the School community from over-exposure to the sun
- provide feedback on the SunSmart policy to the School
- participate in SunSmart education programs like ‘slip, slop and slap’



5. Responsibilities

5.1. Compliance, Monitoring and Review

5.2. Reporting

5.3. Records Management

Approval and Amendment History	Details	Date
Original Approval Authority and Date	HROPS/Principal/OHS Rep	07/2016
Review		22/06/2017
Review		08/04/2019
Review	Principal	18/08/2023
Review, Update & Reformat	4. Change Sun Protection Policy to SunSmart Policy	24/03/2025