



SUN SAFETY POLICY

Rationale

Queensland experiences some of the highest ultraviolet (UV) radiation levels in the world and has the highest incidence of skin cancer globally. Research shows that excessive UV exposure during childhood and adolescence significantly increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. As students spend a considerable portion of the school day outdoors, particularly during peak UV periods, schools have a vital responsibility to minimise UV exposure and support the development of lifelong sun-safe habits.

This policy aligns with Cancer Council Queensland's SunSmart program and the Queensland Department of Education's Sun Safety requirements. It demonstrates Chancellor State College's commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment where effective sun protection practices are embedded in daily routines, learning programs, and school operations to safeguard the long-term health and wellbeing of students and staff.

Purpose

The purpose of this Sun Safety (SunSmart) Policy is to help protect students, staff and our school community from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Because school hours fall during the highest UV times of the day, it is important that we promote safe sun habits and create a school environment that reduces UV exposure.

This policy supports Chancellor State College to meet its duty of care and workplace health and safety responsibilities, while teaching students lifelong SunSmart habits. It reflects guidance from Cancer Council Queensland's SunSmart Schools Program and the Queensland Department of Education's Sun Safety expectations.

The policy was developed in consultation with the College Executive Leadership Team, Corporate Services, Health and Safety representatives and the P&C Association.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors and parents/carers participating in school activities. It covers all Chancellor State College campuses and all school-related events, including outdoor lessons, breaks, assemblies, sport and physical activity, excursions, camps and free-dress days. Sun safety strategies are to be implemented every school day, throughout the entire school year, and apply to all outdoor activities whether on school grounds or off-site. As part of this commitment, employees are encouraged to check daily local sun protection times using the SunSmart widget, the SunSmart Global UV app, myUV.com.au or the Bureau of Meteorology website. Sun protection measures must be used when the UV Index is 3 or above, which in Queensland is all year round. Where practical, outdoor activities are scheduled to minimise time outdoors when UV levels are high to extreme (UV 6 or above). Everyone participating in school activities is expected to follow this policy to help maintain a safe, SunSmart environment for all.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is effective from October 2025 and will be reviewed in September 2026 and annually thereafter. The review process will incorporate feedback from the school community, compliance checks against Cancer Council Queensland SunSmart program expectations, and consideration of outcomes from shade assessments and workplace health and safety audits.

ENDORSED BY:

P&C President: Kylie McDonald

Staff Representative: Lisa Boase

APPROVED BY: Executive Principal: Brad Roberts

Date of approval: 31.10.25



ELEMENT	STRATEGIES
Clothing requirements	<p>At Chancellor State College, sun safety is an important part of our commitment to student wellbeing. Our uniform includes SunSmart features such as collared shirts with elbow-length sleeves and longer-length shorts, pants and dresses. These requirements help reduce UV exposure and support safe participation in daily school activities.</p> <p>Students are required to wear protective clothing, including appropriate hats, when outdoors during the school day and during school-related activities to reduce exposure to the sun. The following strategies apply:</p> <p>Hats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✂ Students are required to wear appropriate hats when outdoors.✂ The only exceptions during sport are when a hat reduces visibility or interferes with skills and poses a safety risk, or where alternate headwear is required for religious or safety reasons. Under these circumstances, students may remove their hats for the duration of the activity and must ensure they have applied sunscreen to uncovered skin (ideally 20 minutes) prior to participating.✂ School uniform hats include broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire styles.✂ Staff remind students to wear hats before and during lunch breaks, and at the start and end of outdoor activities.✂ Students without a hat are required to remain in shaded or protected areas during outdoor play or activities.✂ Spare clean school hats are available for students to borrow if they forget their hat. <p>Swim shirts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✂ Students are required to wear swim shirts/rash vests during all water-based activities occurring at outdoor venues, except during their race/s at competitions and carnivals.
Shade provision and use	<p>Our school is committed to maximising the use of shade to protect students during outdoor activities. We support sun-safe behaviour by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✂ Rotating sports and outdoor learning activities between indoor/under-cover spaces and shaded outdoor areas✂ Using temporary shade structures for key events (e.g., Under 8s Day, Sports Day, Grandparents' Day, Science Fair and Welcome to Prep Day)✂ Encouraging students to use available shade at all times during outdoor play and activities✂ Conducting regular shade assessments to identify opportunities to improve shade access across the College
Sunscreen provision	<p>Our school recognises the importance of sunscreen use as a sun safe measure and implements the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✂ The school supplies SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for student use.✂ Parents/carers are encouraged through social media and newsletter items to have their children apply sunscreen before school. <p>Parents/carers are encouraged to provide sunscreen for their child if they don't wish their child to use the school's sunscreen.</p>



ELEMENT	STRATEGIES
Education	<p>Our school provides educational programs on sun safety and preventative measures through the following strategies:</p> <p>Curriculum, teaching and learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✂ Sun safety is formally taught as part of the implementation of the Australian Curriculum through Health and Physical Education✂ Staff include the risk of exposure to UVR in their curriculum activity risk assessments for outdoor activities, which includes ensuring that adequate shade is available for outdoor activities where possible, for example, using temporary shade structures. <p>Incidental teaching and promoting sun safe behaviours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✂ Incidental teaching of personal sun safety strategies occurs in all year levels as part of the school routine on a regular basis, for example, through reminders to students to wear hats and apply sunscreen. <p>Staff professional development</p> <p>All staff are informed of the school's sun safety expectations during induction. To support consistent and informed practice, staff are also encouraged to complete Cancer Council Queensland's free <i>Generation SunSmart</i> online professional learning modules.</p>
Modelling sun safe behaviours	<p>Our school promotes the importance of parents/carers, teachers, ancillary staff, volunteers and other adult supervisors as positive role models in demonstrating SunSmart behaviours. Strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✂ Staff and P&C members are encouraged to use shade, wear sun-safe hats and clothing, sunglasses, and apply sunscreen when on duty, running outdoor activities, or attending excursions and camps✂ Parents/carers are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their children before school and provide personal sunscreen for use throughout the day✂ Encouraging sunscreen reapplication every two hours when outdoors for extended periods, or immediately after swimming, sweating, or towel-drying
Cost considerations	<p>The department provides funding for sun safety using the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✂ School funding is allocated annually to enable the purchase of sunscreen for each class for the whole school year.
Additional strategies	<p>Other strategies our school uses to be sun safe include: Sunscreen stations are set up at sports days and swimming carnivals.</p>