

## **SUN PROTECTION POLICY**

### **Incorporating the Inclement Weather Procedure**



#### **1. RATIONALE**

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Gleeson College can help to reduce the incidence of skin damage and skin cancer by encouraging all members of the College community to take effective skin protection measures.

Gleeson College has a duty of care to staff and students at all times. This duty of care includes protection against inclement weather during times when student would normally be outside.

Policy reflects this information.

#### **2. AIMS**

This policy aims to promote the following goals among students, staff and parents.

- 2.1.** Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above.
- 2.2.** Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times.
- 2.3.** Ensure all students and staff have some UV exposure for vitamin D.
- 2.4.** Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- 2.5.** Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's SunSmart policy.
- 2.6.** Ensure the well-being of students and staff during times of inclement weather by consistently implementing a planned management strategy that will cater for all circumstances.

#### **3. BROAD POLICY**

Gleeson College heeds the warning offered to us through extensive research that people in our society should protect themselves from the harm that can be caused to skin by cumulative exposure to the sun. Therefore, we strongly encourage students to ensure that they access such protection at all times when they are outside of the classroom and exposed to the rays of the sun along with exposure to other extremes of weather e.g. cold, wet and storms.

SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and in student enrolment packs.

## 4. GUIDELINES

- 4.1. The Sun Protection Policy applies to all students and staff at Gleeson College.
- 4.2. The policy is for implementation throughout the year.
- 4.3. The College strongly recommends that, when outdoors (particularly at recess and lunchtime) or participating in outdoor activities/lessons in the sun:
- Students wear the College Hat.
  - Staff and students wear shirts/tops with collars and sleeves, and made of closely woven material which also 'breathes'.
  - Encouraged to be applied each morning, SPF 30+ (or stronger) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen on all exposed parts of the body and reapplied during the day according to the guidelines supplied with the sunscreen if required. Sunscreen is available at Student Services and College Administration.
  - Sunglasses: Students and staff are encouraged to wear close-fitting, wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067:2003 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.
  - Staff and students utilise shaded or covered areas wherever and whenever practicable.
  - Students who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
  - Sunscreen is available, supplied by the College at stations located around the College and at Student Services.
  - Staff and students remain hydrated by sipping water throughout the day (only water is allowed in classrooms).
- 4.4. Throughout each term students must wear a hat for Physical Education lessons which are conducted outside. Care must be taken by teachers to avoid long periods of exposure to the sun on days of extreme UV danger.
- 4.5. Programs on skin cancer prevention, sun protection and vitamin D are included in the curriculum where appropriate.
- 4.6. Students are encouraged to bring their own supplies of SPF 30+ sunscreen to school and apply it each morning, particularly in Terms 1 and 4. There will be sunscreen available to those who do not have their own.
- 4.7. If teachers choose to conduct a lesson outside, the sun protection (e.g. shade, hats and sunscreen) should be adhered to.
- 4.8. Inclement Weather Procedure for Recess and Lunch Times.

### Implementation:

- The inclement weather procedure will be activated by the Deputy Principal or delegate when conditions are considered to be unsuitable for students and staff (usually at lunchtimes).
- Inclement weather is generally defined as extreme heat (generally 36 degrees or above), rain, lightning, or any other condition that is considered by the Principal (or delegates) to be unsuitable for extended exposure.
- Where inclement weather is obvious, either prior to or during a recess or lunch break, **two bells** will sound advising staff and students to follow the inclement weather procedure until further notice.

- In such cases, the oval and courts will be out of bounds (in **HOT** weather **only** the Faulkner veranda will be opened and supervised by the staff member on yard duty).  
Students will be allowed to enter:
  - the Thomas Learning Centre (L2-1/2-2) supervised by the **North Oval** yard duty
  - transportable rooms (D1-6/1-7), supervised by the **Transportables** yard duty and
  - Students will be expected to seek shelter if remaining outside eg. under the balcony verandas upstairs, under the walkways and in the Home Economics/Flexible Learning courtyard. At lunchtimes the Library and Multimedia room will also be open.
- Teachers normally on yard duty on the ovals (North and South) will be required to supervise the Learning Centre (in **HOT** weather **only** the Faulkner veranda supervising teacher will need to remain in the area).
- Teachers normally on yard duty on the Basketball Courts will be required to supervise T1-2, T1-3.
- Teachers normally on yard duty around the Transportables will be required to supervise D1-6/1-7.


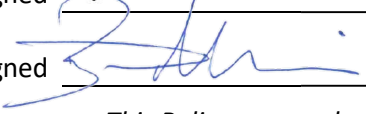
**4.9.** Staff and students are strongly encouraged to wear a Gleeson College hat when outside.

## 5. BASIS OF DISCRETION

Teachers may use their discretion about the way their outdoor activities are conducted, taking into account the weather conditions, the length of time the students are to be in the sun and the protection they have from the sun. The one thing which is not negotiable is that students **MUST** be wearing the College hat when participating in outside activities. Students who do not have a hat will be encouraged to seek shade.

## 6. EVALUATION

The Principal is responsible for the evaluation of this policy which will take place every 3 years. The policy should be considered by members of the College community. Parents, staff and students should be surveyed to ascertain the level of satisfaction with and effectiveness of the policy.

Signed		Principal or delegate	Dated: 24/03/2022
Signed		Chairperson of Board or delegate	Dated: 4/05/2022

*This Policy now replaces all previous versions and evaluations of this Policy originally implemented in 2016.*