Glen Iris Child Care and Kindergarten

GI-033 – Sun Protection Policy

Policy Number	GI-033
Quality Area	QA2 – Children's Health and Safety • QA3 – Physical Environment
National Law	s.167 • s.168 • s.169
National Regulations	Regs. 100 • 113 • 114 • 168 • 169
Related NQS	QA2.1.1 • QA2.2.1 • QA2.2.2 • QA3.1.2
VEYLDF (2026)	Practice Principles – Integrated Teaching and Learning Approaches • Respectful Relationships and Responsive Engagement
Victorian Child Safe Standards:	Standards 2 • 5 • 11
Version:	1.0
Approved By:	Centre Director
Approved Date:	July 2026
Review Date:	July 2027

OUR COMMITMENT

Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment that protects children, educators, students, volunteers and visitors from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation while supporting outdoor play and learning.

We recognise that outdoor experiences are essential for children's wellbeing, physical development and connection with nature. By implementing a comprehensive Sun Protection Policy, we aim to minimise exposure to harmful UV radiation through education, planning, appropriate clothing, sunscreen, shaded environments and positive role modelling.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

This policy supports Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre in meeting its obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law, National Regulations and National Quality Standard by ensuring appropriate precautions are taken to protect children from environmental hazards, including excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

The policy promotes healthy lifestyle practices while supporting children's right to safely participate in outdoor learning experiences throughout the year.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children, educators, students, volunteers and visitors from harmful UV radiation.
- Promote safe outdoor play and learning throughout the year.
- Encourage lifelong sun-safe habits.
- Ensure appropriate use of hats, protective clothing and sunscreen.
- Maximise the use of natural and built shade.
- Support families to understand and participate in the service's sun protection practices.
- Maintain compliance with legislative and recognised best practice requirements.

WHO THIS POLICY APPLIES TO

This policy applies to:

- Approved Providers.
- Centre Director.
- Nominated Supervisor.
- Educational Leader.
- Educators.
- Administration Staff.
- Students and Volunteers.
- Children.
- Families.
- Visitors.

DEFINITIONS

Ultraviolet (UV) Radiation
Invisible radiation from the sun that can damage the skin and eyes and increase the risk of skin cancer.

SunSmart
An evidence-based approach to reducing exposure to harmful UV radiation through protective clothing, hats, shade, sunscreen and appropriate planning of outdoor activities.

Broad-Spectrum Sunscreen
A sunscreen that protects against both UVA and UVB rays and has a minimum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 50+.

Shade
Natural or built structures that reduce direct exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

WHY THIS POLICY MATTERS

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, and childhood exposure to ultraviolet radiation significantly increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life.

Children's skin is particularly sensitive to UV radiation, making effective sun protection an essential part of providing a safe and healthy environment.

This policy promotes a balanced approach that protects children while encouraging active outdoor play, exploration and learning, helping children develop lifelong healthy habits and an understanding of how to care for their own wellbeing.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre is committed to:

- Protecting children, educators, students, volunteers and visitors from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- Promoting a balanced approach that supports both sun safety and the benefits of outdoor play and learning.
- Embedding SunSmart practices into everyday routines throughout the year.
- Providing environments that maximise the use of natural and built shade.
- Encouraging children to develop lifelong sun-safe habits through education and positive role modelling.
- Working in partnership with families to ensure consistent sun protection practices.
- Continuously reviewing sun protection strategies in line with recognised best practice and current UV recommendations.

OUR POLICY

Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre is committed to implementing effective sun protection practices whenever the UV Index is forecast to reach **3 or above**, as recommended by SunSmart Victoria.

Sun protection strategies will be implemented throughout the year and will include:

- Planning outdoor experiences to reduce exposure during periods of high UV radiation where practicable.
- Encouraging children, educators, students and volunteers to wear SunSmart hats and protective clothing.
- Providing SPF 50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen for children and educators.
- Maximising the use of natural and built shade.
- Educating children about sun safety through everyday learning experiences.
- Encouraging educators to model positive sun-safe behaviours.
- Working collaboratively with families to support consistent sun protection practices.

No child will be excluded from outdoor learning due to not having sunscreen or a suitable hat. The service will work with families to ensure every child can participate safely.

HOW WE PUT THIS POLICY INTO PRACTICE

Outdoor Play and Learning

Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre will:

- Check the daily UV Index using the SunSmart app or Bureau of Meteorology forecasts.
- Implement SunSmart practices whenever the UV Index reaches 3 or above.
- Schedule outdoor experiences to reduce prolonged exposure to peak UV periods where practical.
- Ensure children continue to access outdoor learning every day while appropriate sun protection measures are in place.
- Encourage children to seek shade during periods of higher UV exposure.
- Regularly review outdoor environments to maximise available shade.

Protective Clothing

Children, educators, students and volunteers will be encouraged to wear:

- Broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hats that shade the face, neck and ears.
- Clothing that covers the shoulders and upper body where practical.
- Appropriate footwear for outdoor play.

Baseball caps and visors do not provide adequate sun protection and are discouraged.

Sunscreen

The service will:

- Supply SPF 50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen.
- Apply sunscreen to children at least 20 minutes before outdoor play when UV levels require protection.
- Reapply sunscreen throughout the day in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
- Encourage children to progressively develop independence in applying sunscreen under educator supervision, where developmentally appropriate.
- Respect documented medical advice, allergies or family requests relating to sunscreen use.

Shade

Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre will:

- Maintain and regularly assess the effectiveness of natural and built shade.
- Encourage outdoor experiences in shaded areas where possible.
- Consider shade when planning new outdoor environments and equipment.
- Inspect shade structures as part of routine safety checks.

Education and Role Modelling

Educators will:

- Teach children about the importance of protecting their skin from the sun.
- Embed sun safety into the educational program through discussions, books, songs, investigations and play experiences.
- Model SunSmart behaviours by wearing appropriate hats, protective clothing and sunscreen.

- Encourage children to take increasing responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.

Partnerships with Families

The service will:

- Communicate the Sun Protection Policy during enrolment.
- Encourage families to provide SunSmart clothing where required.
- Inform families of the importance of daily sun protection.
- Work collaboratively with families regarding individual medical needs relating to sun protection.
- Share information and resources that promote healthy sun-safe practices.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Approved Providers

Will:

- Ensure the service has an effective Sun Protection Policy.
- Provide appropriate resources, including sunscreen and shade where practicable.
- Support ongoing review of SunSmart practices.
- Promote compliance with legislative requirements.

Centre Director

Will:

- Ensure this policy is implemented consistently.
- Monitor the availability of sunscreen and sun protection resources.
- Support educators to implement SunSmart practices.
- Ensure families are informed of the service's expectations.
- Review outdoor environments and shade provision.

Educational Leader

Will:

- Support educators to incorporate sun safety into the educational program.
- Encourage reflective practice regarding children's health and wellbeing.
- Promote learning experiences that develop children's understanding of healthy lifestyles.

Educators

Will:

- Implement the Sun Protection Policy consistently.
- Apply and supervise sunscreen application where required.
- Encourage children to wear appropriate hats and clothing.
- Model positive SunSmart behaviours.
- Plan outdoor learning experiences that consider UV levels and available shade.

- Communicate with families regarding children's individual sun protection needs.

Families
Will:

- Support the service's Sun Protection Policy.
- Provide appropriate SunSmart clothing where requested.
- Inform the service of any allergies, medical advice or specific requirements relating to sunscreen.
- Reinforce sun-safe practices at home.

Students and Volunteers
Will:

- Follow the service's Sun Protection Policy.
- Model appropriate SunSmart behaviours.
- Support educators in promoting sun safety.
- Wear appropriate hats and protective clothing while outdoors.

GLEN IRIS CHILDCARE CENTRE & KINDERGARTEN IN PRACTICE

At Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre, SunSmart practices are embedded into our daily routines and learning experiences to ensure children can safely enjoy the benefits of outdoor play throughout the year.

Educators monitor the daily UV Index and implement sun protection strategies whenever the UV level is **3 or above**. Outdoor environments are intentionally planned to make the best use of natural and built shade, with play experiences adjusted where appropriate to ensure children remain comfortable and protected.

Children are encouraged to become active participants in their own health and wellbeing by learning to recognise the importance of wearing their hat, applying sunscreen with educator support when developmentally appropriate, seeking shade and caring for their bodies. Educators consistently model positive SunSmart behaviours, reinforcing these messages through everyday routines and intentional teaching.

Our partnership with families supports a consistent approach to sun safety between home and the service, helping children develop lifelong healthy habits.

CHILDREN'S VOICE IN ACTION

Children are encouraged to actively participate in sun-safe practices and develop an understanding of how to care for their own health and wellbeing.
Children's voices are supported when they:

- Choose to play in shaded areas.
- Learn why hats and sunscreen help protect their skin.
- Participate in discussions about weather, seasons and the sun.
- Develop independence by assisting with sunscreen application under educator supervision where appropriate.
- Remind peers and educators about wearing hats and seeking shade.
- Share their ideas about creating comfortable and inviting outdoor environments.

Educators listen to children's ideas and use these conversations to extend learning about health, safety and self-care.

EXCEEDING PRACTICE

Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre goes beyond minimum legislative requirements by embedding SunSmart practices into everyday decision-making, curriculum planning and environmental design.

Rather than viewing sun protection as a routine task, educators intentionally teach children about healthy lifestyles, environmental awareness and self-care. Sun safety is integrated into investigations about seasons, weather, the environment and wellbeing, encouraging children to understand the reasons behind SunSmart practices.

The service regularly reviews outdoor environments, shade availability and daily routines to ensure children continue to enjoy meaningful outdoor experiences while remaining protected from harmful UV exposure. Families are engaged as partners in promoting consistent sun-safe behaviours, strengthening children's understanding across home and the service.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre is committed to continually improving its Sun Protection practices.

This policy will be reviewed through:

- Regular inspections of outdoor environments and shade.
- Feedback from children, families and educators.
- Daily monitoring of SunSmart practices.
- Professional learning relating to children's health and wellbeing.
- Quality Improvement Plan goals.
- Updates from SunSmart Victoria and recognised health authorities.
- Changes to legislation and recognised best practice.

Continuous improvement ensures our Sun Protection practices remain current, effective and responsive to the needs of our children and community.

RELATED LEGISLATION

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

- **s.167 –** Protection from harm and hazards.
- **s.168 –** Education and care service policies and procedures**.**
- **s.169 –** Policies and procedures to be followed.

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

- **Reg. 100 –** Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion.
- **Reg. 113 –** Outdoor space, natural environment.
- **Reg. 114 –** Outdoor space, shade**.**
- **Reg. 168 –** Education and care service policies and procedures.
- **Reg. 169 –** Policies and procedures to be followed.

National Quality Standard
Quality Area 2 – Children's Health and Safety

- QA2.1.1 – Wellbeing and comfort.
- QA2.2.1 – Supervision.
- QA2.2.2 – Incident and emergency management.

Quality Area 3 – Physical Environment

- QA3.1.2 – Upkeep.

Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) 2026

- Practice Principles for Learning and Development.
- Integrated Teaching and Learning Approaches.
- Respectful Relationships and Responsive Engagement.

Victorian Child Safe Standards
This policy supports:

- **Standard 2** – Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in leadership, governance and culture.
- **Standard 5** – Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.
- **Standard 11** – Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Supervision Policy
- Outdoor Environment Policy
- Excursions Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Risk Management Policy

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following documents support the implementation of this policy:

- SunSmart UV Index (daily reference)
- Outdoor Environment Risk Assessments
- Children's Medical Management Plans (where applicable)
- Sunscreen Permission Records
- Daily Safety Checklists
- Staff Induction Records
- Professional Learning Records
- Quality Improvement Plan

EVIDENCE OF PRACTICE

Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre demonstrates this policy through:

- Daily monitoring of the UV Index.
- Consistent implementation of SunSmart practices when the UV Index is 3 or above.
- Children wearing SunSmart hats and appropriate clothing.
- Availability and use of SPF 50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen.
- Outdoor environments that provide natural and built shade.
- Intentional teaching about sun safety and healthy lifestyles.
- Educators modelling SunSmart behaviours.
- Ongoing review of outdoor environments and shade provision.
- Continuous monitoring through the Quality Improvement Plan.

REFLECTION & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Critical reflection supports our commitment to protecting children while promoting the many benefits of outdoor learning.
Reflective questions include:

- Are our SunSmart practices consistently implemented throughout the year?
- Do children understand why we wear hats, apply sunscreen and seek shade?
- Are our outdoor environments providing sufficient natural and built shade?
- How effectively are educators modelling SunSmart behaviours?
- How are families supported to understand and contribute to our sun protection practices?
- What improvements could further strengthen our SunSmart culture and outdoor learning environments?
- How do our practices reflect current advice from SunSmart Victoria and recognised best practice?

Outcomes from these reflections inform environmental planning, professional learning, policy review and our Quality Improvement Plan.

VERSION HISTORY

Version	Date Approved	Approved By	Summary of Changes
1.0	July 2026	Centre Director	Initial policy developed as part of the Glen Iris Childcare Centre & Kindergarten Child Care Centre Governance, Policy and Procedures Manual. Developed to align with the Education and Care Services National Law, National Regulations, National Quality Standard, VEYLDF (2026) and Victorian Child Safe Standards.