

Sunsmart Policy



RATIONALE

- The sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can't be seen or felt. Whatever the weather, it's important for people of all skin types to use sun protection whenever UV levels are three or higher.
- Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk and can lead to skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and be protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school.

AIMS

- To educate students as to suitable SunSmart protection strategies.
- To encourage children and teachers to get some sun exposure for vitamin D and protect themselves from the harmful effects of overexposure to the sun.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au or on the free sun smart app on the school mobile phone to assist with the implementation of this policy. The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the **daily local sun protection times**. *The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.*
- A combination of sun protection measures are used for all outdoor activities from mid-August to the end of April and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.
- Children will wear sun smart clothing, T shirts that protect the shoulders and longer style dresses with sleeves and/or just above knee length (minimum length) shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.
- Children will be required to wear Cancer Council approved close-weave broad brimmed hats (at least 7.5 cm brim) or bucket style (at least 6cm rigid brim) from mid-August until the end of April and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.
- Staff will meet OHS requirements, and act as role models, by also wearing broad brimmed hats and covering clothing when outside during these times.
- Children without broad brimmed hats or covering clothing will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas.
- Children and staff will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30 or higher). Sunscreen will be provided at school and on excursions. Sunscreen will be applied by students according to the manufacturer's directions, under the supervision of teachers.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen buddies).
- The school council will provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable; particularly over high density play areas such as sand pits and play equipment.
- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the sunsmart policy.

- Sunsmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.
- UV radiation exposure is considered as part of a [school's risk management and assessment](#) for all outdoor events and activities on and off-site e.g. UV radiation protection strategies (hats, clothing, shade, sunscreen) are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.
- Our school will continue its membership as a Sunsmart school at the Cancer Council Victoria.

EVALUATION

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Legislation and standards

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch 5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

Relevant documents/links

- DET Policy & Advisory Library [Sun protection guidelines](#) 2020
- Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) [Guidelines to the Minimum Standards and Requirements for School Registration](#) - Care, safety and welfare of students (2020)
- DET Policy & Advisory Library [Outdoor activities and working outdoors](#) (2020)
- DEECD Health, Safety & Workcover
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) [Building Quality Standards Handbook \(BQSH\)](#): Section 5.1.3, 5.1.4 Shade Areas (May 2021)
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools – Government Response
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- *Safe Work Australia: Guide on exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation (UVR)* (2019)
- AS 4174:2018 *Knitted and woven shade fabrics*
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, *Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles*
- AS 4399:2020, *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*

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2021
Consultation	
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2025