



SUNSMART POLICY

Rationale:

- Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and 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 protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.

Implementation:

Staff are encouraged to access the SunSmart UV Alert at sunsmart.com.au to find out daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

We use a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities from September to the end of April and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, the level that can damage skin and eyes.

- This policy is to be read as part of our Student Dress Code which includes sun protective clothing. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and longer sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.
- Children will be required to wear close-weave broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaires hats that protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside.
- Children without these hats or covering clothing will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas.
- Broad brimmed and legionnaires style hats will be available for purchase from the school.
- Staff will act as role models by also wearing broad brimmed or legionnaires hats when outside.
- Parents will be encouraged to wear broad-brimmed or legionnaire hats while involved in school outdoor activities.
- Children will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+) – applied prior to coming to school. Parents will be encouraged to provide sunscreen, which will stay in the child's bag.
- Time will be given for children to apply sunscreen prior to the lunch play break or outdoor activities. Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
- School Council will encourage the use of close fitting UV protection sunglasses (labelled AS 1067) by both students and staff.
- Whenever possible, outside activities on hot days should be scheduled before 11:00 am.
- The school council will provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable, - funds permitting, 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.
- The teachers will be encouraged to constantly upgrade and expand the curriculum resources related to sun protection and cancer prevention.
- Our school will maintain membership as a Sunsmart school at the Cancer Council Victoria.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's policy 4 year review cycle. (Ratified April 2014)

Relevant Documents / Links

- DEECD School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV protection (2011)
- DEECD Health, Safety & WorkCover
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 7.5.5 Shade Areas
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools -Government Response
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight