

Sun Smart Policy

Background

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70.

UV radiation:

- Cannot be seen or felt
- Can be reflected off surfaces such as buildings, asphalt, concrete, water, sand and snow
- can pass through light clouds
- Varies in intensity across the year (highest in Victoria from mid-August – end of April)
- Peaks during school hours

Sun safety is a shared responsibility and staff, parents and students.

Purpose

To ensure:

- All students, staff and visitors are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- The outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- Students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- Support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.
- The school promotes being sun smart to the community
- That the school complies with the Department of Education and Training (DET) policies and procedures and Occupational Health and Safety regulations including [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#) and [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#): Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)
- Adheres to the DET Values of accountability, leadership, respect, impartiality, integrity, human rights and responsiveness when implementing the international students program.

Implementation

- The Principal has the overall responsibility of implementing this policy, but may delegate certain roles to suitably qualified staff.

Overall Management

- The school will keep a valid sun smart registration.
- The school will regularly send reminder to parents about the sun smart policy, e.g. reminders of when students must wear hats.
- To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the [SunSmart widget](#) on the school's website, the free [SunSmart app](#), or at sunsmart.com.au.



- If there is extreme hot weather and UV activity, the school may employ a 'hot day' timetable for recess and lunch breaks.
- 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. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April. **Students and staff must wear their Huntingdale sun smart hat during the peak UV times in Victoria from mid-August to April.**

Environment

Seek Shade

- The School Council will ensure there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas, particularly high use areas.
- The availability of shade will be considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- In consultation with the School Council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade

Behaviours

Slip on sun protective clothing

- The school will ensure that sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform.
- Clothing options will include those that are cool, loose-fitting and made of fabric that is densely woven. Or supplier will sell polo shirts with collars and elbow-length sleeves as well as having a long sleeve option.

Slap on sun protective hat

- All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket hat), whenever they are outside. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative. **Students and staff must wear their hats during the peak UV times in Victoria from mid August to April.**

Slop on sunscreen

- Students must provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
- We encourage parents to apply sunscreen on their child in the morning before they come to school. Students are encouraged to reapply their sunscreen when at school and they must put on their own sunscreen. Teachers will not do this.
- Sunscreen should be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
- Teachers will remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

Slide on sunglasses (if practical)

- Where practical students are encouraged to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.



Stay Hydrated

- Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle each day and have regular water intake.

Learning

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels. This may occur during the Creating Our Learning Community unit of work, as part of health and physical education or inquiry units.
- Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun smart behaviour across the school community.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- Sun smart behaviour will be regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website, flexi buzz notifications, staff induction programs and school assemblies.

Occupational Health and Safety

- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:
 - Wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
 - Apply sunscreen; and
 - Seek shade whenever possible

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's 3 year cycle or as needed to comply with DET policy changes.

Document Status

Reviewed	School Council Ratification	Next Review
March 2017	May 16 th 2017	May 16 th 2020
8 May 2020- Principal 2 June Education & Future Directions Sub-committee	June 9 2020	May 2023