

Staff	SunSmart Policy	Date: June 2018
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Rationale:

Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. It is estimated that more than 75% of skin cancers could be prevented by practicing sun protection in early childhood and in adolescence. Students must be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection and must be protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school.

From May to August the average UV levels are below 3 and Vitamin D levels need to be maintained. Sun protection is not normally needed except if outdoors for extended periods or the UV levels reach 3 or above. During these months most people need two to three hours of midday winter sun exposure to the face, arms and hands (or equivalent area of skin) to help with vitamin D levels. People with naturally very dark skin may need 3-6 times this exposure.

The school management has responsibility to ensure, as far as practicable, the provision and maintenance of a safe and secure working environment which is without risk to the health and safety of staff, students and visitors.

Aims:

- To educate students regarding SunSmart protection strategies.
- To encourage children and teachers to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.

Implementation:

- Children are required to wear hats whenever they are outside from September to April (i.e. recess, lunchtime, sport, excursions).
- Students and staff 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.
- NO HAT NO PLAY rule - children without a hat to stay in specified shaded area.
- Encourage the daily application of sunscreen before school and prior to lunchtime.
- Encourage children to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
- Request staff and parents to act as role models by practicing SunSmart behaviour - staff to wear hats whenever they are outside in from September to April.
- Particular care should be taken between 10am and 2pm (11am-3pm daylight saving time) when UV levels reach their peak.
- Adequate shade structures will be provided for students as practicable; particularly over high density play areas such as sand pits and play equipment.
- Organise outdoor activities to be held in areas with shade, whenever possible.
- Regularly reinforce Sun Smart behaviour in a positive way through assemblies, newsletters, parent meetings, teacher modeling, and student and teacher activities.

- Ensure the SunSmart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (i.e. camps, excursions, sporting events).
- Conduct school swimming/spa programs in an indoor pool or in an outdoor shaded pool/spa..
- The school uniform when introduced will include appropriate head wear.

Evaluation:

- Annual assessment of shade provision and usage.
- Annual Policy review in line with the Cancer Council of Victoria's current resources and policy guidelines.
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year cycle.

REFERENCES

- Exec Memo No 99/039,
- Cancer Council of Victoria - Ph: 9635 5148
- Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide -
- <http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/schadmin/environment/4-5.pdf>
- OH&S Act 2004
- Section 7.5.5 Shade Areas in [Building Quality Standards Handbook\(PDF - 239Kb\)](#)

Ratified School Council: 18/06/2018

Review date: