



Rationale:

- Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. 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 have some UV exposure for vitamin D but to protect themselves from the harmful effects of too much UV exposure from the sun.
- To support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Implementation:

- Staff are encouraged to access the SunSmart UV Alert at sunsmart.com.au or on the school website 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, for all school events on and off site.
- This policy is to be read as part of our Student Dress Code which includes sun protective clothing such as shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and 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 8 cm rigid brim) whenever they are outside from September to the end of April or when UV levels reach 3 or above.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff and visitors will also be wearing broad brimmed hats, sunglasses and covering clothes when outside between September and the end of April or when the UV is 3 or above.
- Children without broad brimmed hats or covering clothing will be restricted to play in shaded areas.
- With parental consent, students with naturally very dark skin are not required to wear sunscreen to help with vitamin D requirements.
- Children will be actively encouraged to wear a broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Students are also encouraged to wear

sunglasses with UV protection. Sunscreen will be provided in each classroom, and on excursions. Sunscreen will be applied by students according to the manufacturer's directions, under the supervision of teachers. Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).

- Whenever possible, outside activities on hot days should be scheduled before 11:00 am. Extreme heat will be taken into consideration for allowing students to play outside.
- The school council will provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable; particularly over high density play areas and students will be encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities and excursions.
- The Parents Club will ensure that school uniform broad brimmed hats are available for purchase from the uniform store.
- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the SunSmart policy.
- Programs on skin cancer prevention and vitamin D will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle and feedback will be sought from the School Community.
- These policies will be implemented in accordance with our **Student Engagement Policy**.

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 (2008)

Endorsed by School Council - Tuesday 8th December 2015