

Rationale

Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Schools can help reduce UV radiation exposure and change behaviour through policy, education and role modelling. Students should therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school. The school recognises that it has a duty of care to reasonably protect its students and staff from reasonably foreseeable risk.

Aims

- To educate students as to suitable ‘SunSmart’ protection strategies and to help them follow through with these strategies and to teach them to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- To encourage students and teachers to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun by using appropriate sun protection measures when required, particularly between September and April.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for children, staff and the school community at appropriate times of the day.

Implementation

- This policy is to be read as part of our Student Dress Code.
- Our school is accredited as a ‘SunSmart’ school with the Cancer Council of Victoria, and all families and staff are informed of the school’s SunSmart policy.
- Students are required to wear SunSmart approved hats that protect their face, neck and ears. Hats featuring the school emblem can be purchased from the uniform shop or the front office. It is compulsory for school hats to be worn from the start of September until the end of April whenever students are outside.
- Students without hats will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas and infringement notices will be sent home to notify parents
- Students should use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels are expected to reach 3 and above. Particular care is taken between 10am and 3pm when UV levels reach their peak. Students will be encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Staff will act as role models by also using a combination of sun protection measures, such as wearing sun protective hats, when outside.
- Our SunSmart policy will be considered when planning all outdoor events. Where possible, outdoor activities or events will be scheduled before 11am on hot days.
- The School Council will provide adequate shade in the school grounds where practical, particularly in areas where children congregate or play.
- Children will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). It is recommended that sunscreen be applied before school under parent supervision. Students may keep personal supply of sunscreen in school bags in consultation with their parent/guardian, and may reapply when required.
- To help maintain winter vitamin D levels, sun protection measures are not used from May until August unless the UV Index level reaches 3 and above.

- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the 'SunSmart' policy for the benefit of the entire school community.
- 'SunSmart' activities and sun protection 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 policy review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

October 2010