

SunSmart Policy

This policy applies to all school events on and off-site.

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 associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school.

Purpose

This SunSmart policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support duty of care requirements; and
- support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Implementation

- This policy is to be read as part of our Student Dress Code.
- We are a SunSmart school. All children are expected to wear a school hat (Bucket/slouch – dark blue) when outside from mid-August to the end of April. Our NO HAT, NO PLAY rule applies from mid-August to the end of April.
- 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 or myuv.com.au.
- The sun protection measures listed below are used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times.*

*The sun protection times from the Bureau of Meteorology tell you 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.

Healthy physical environment

1. Seek shade

- The school council makes sure there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas e.g. canteen, assemblies, sports, outdoor lessons and popular play spaces.
- The availability of shade is 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 will be restricted play in designated shaded areas.
- Whenever possible, outside activities on extreme hot days should be scheduled before 11:00 am.
- 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.

Healthy social environment

2. Slip on sun protective clothing

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school uniform / dress code.

3. Slap on a hat

- All students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (broad-brimmed or bucket hat), whenever they are outside. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

4. Slop on sunscreen

- Children will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Sunscreen will be provided for use on school 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

5. 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.

Learning and skills

- Sun Smart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.

Engaging children, educators, staff and families

- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.
- 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.
- Our school will maintain accreditation as a Sun Smart school at the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria.

Relevant and Additional Documents:

- SPS Yard Supervision Policy
- SPS Student Dress Code Policy

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the School's three-year review cycle

**This policy was ratified by School Council in
2017.**

**This policy will be reviewed by School Council in
2020.**