



SUNSMART POLICY

STATEMENT

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

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.

RATIONALE

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

- To assist with the implementation of the 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 www.sunsmart.com.au or www.myuv.com.au
- The sun protection measures are used for all outdoor activities **during the daily local sun protection times** (whenever UV levels are three or higher) typically from mid-August to the end of April.
- The school council makes sure there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all 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.
- Students who are unable to wear a hat are to be directed to available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform code i.e. clothing that is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vest or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

- All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats whenever they are outside. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.
- The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student use.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors or more frequently if swimming.
- Staff members are to wash their hands before applying sunscreen on students.
- Where practical 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.
- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- 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 when outside, apply sunscreen and seek shade whenever possible.
- The school council and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years) by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at www.sunsmart.com.au
- SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.
- When planning excursions in warm weather staff will choose venues where adequate shade is available, ensure that appropriate protective clothing is worn and sunscreen is used effectively.
- Students who have identified allergies to sunscreen will have an identified management in their medical plans.

REFERENCES

- DET School Policy and Advisory Guide Sun and UV Protection 2016
- DET The Compact Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian Government school education 2012
- DET Guidelines for School Playgrounds 2012

Evaluation

Ratified By Hume Valley School Council	August 2016
Review Date:	August 2019

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