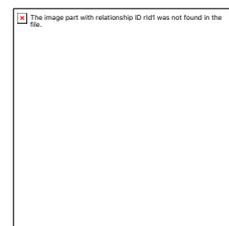


SUNSMART POLICY



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Richmond West Primary School to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV index levels are 3 or above (generally mid-August – end of April)
- ensure that there are outdoor environments that provide adequate shade for students and staff
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection
- support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure and associated harm for students and staff.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

DEFINITIONS

- UV – Ultraviolet radiation
- Vitamin D – Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health

Excessive exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause health problems including sunburn, damage to skin and eyes, and an increased risk of skin cancer.

UV radiation:

- cannot be seen or felt
- can be reflected off surfaces such as buildings, asphalt, concrete, water, sand and snow
- can pass through light clouds
- varies in intensity across the year (highest in Victoria from mid-August – end of April)
- peaks during school hours

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Arising from our understanding of the dangers of UV rays, particularly on young sensitive skin and the dangers from being exposed at such a young age, we have developed and implemented a SunSmart policy to ensure that:

- Students are educated in the potential dangers of being exposed to UV rays
- Students are instructed in how to protect themselves from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun
- Staff and students adopt good personal sun-safe practices
- Appropriate OHS strategies are implemented to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors

Date of Preparation: March 2018

Date Endorsed by School Council: Not required

Date of Next Review: March 2021



SUNSMART POLICY

- Duty of care requirements are supported

Sun safety is a shared responsibility and staff, parents and students are encouraged to implement a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above (typically from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria). Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

At Richmond West primary School we aim for the maintenance of a healthy UV exposure balance for students and staff, by following our sun protection policy from the beginning of September until the end of April. From May until August, sun protection is not used unless the UV index is above 3. Particular care is to be taken between 10a.m. and 3p.m. when UV index rates reach their peak

The SunSmart policy is considered when planning outdoor events such as camps, excursions and sporting events

Seek shade

- Provide a safe school environment with shade for students, staff and the school community
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or sun-protective clothing are asked to play in the shade

Slip on sun protective clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform but may also include the following options:

- loose, cool, closely woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

Slap on a hat

- Students will be required to wear hats which protect their face, neck and ears from September to the end of April, when they are outside
- Hats must be broad brimmed, legionnaire or a bucket hat. Baseball caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

Slop on sunscreen

- The use of SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is encouraged, with time allowed for applying sunscreen. Strategies will be developed to help students remember to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
- **Parents are encouraged to** supply SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for student's use



SUNSMART POLICY

Slide on sunglasses

- 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

Curriculum

- Programs on skin cancer prevention and Vitamin D are included in the curriculum for all year levels
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, parent meetings, staff meetings and school assemblies. Staff are requested, and families and visitors to the school encouraged, to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviours including wearing appropriate hats and clothing when outdoors.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
 - o [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - o [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)
- The compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian government school education: Principle 3 (2012)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch.5 Reg.1 (1.2)

Related Policies

- Camps and Excursions Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Child Safe Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Volunteers Policy
- Parental responsibilities Policy

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle, DET guidelines change, or if the school's uniform changes.