

**RATIONALE:**

Our SunSmart and Heat policy aims to educate the school community to ensure that all students and staff attending this school take responsibility to protect themselves from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. Sun protection is recommended for all skin types when UV levels reach 3 or higher. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April. This policy will be implemented for all outdoor activities from mid-August to the end of April.

IMPLEMENTATION:

As part of general SunSmart strategies, our school will:

Behaviour:

- Require children to wear hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside.
- Include sun protective clothing in our school uniform and sport uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts, wide-brimmed and legionnaire-type hats.
- Encourage students and staff to bring and use SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to use daily.
- Promote the daily application of SPF30 sunscreen before school and 20 minutes (where possible) prior to outdoor activity.
- Encourage children to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
- Encourage UV risk controls and role-modelling by staff, families and visitors as part of OHS:
 - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses
 - apply sunscreen
 - seek shade whenever possible.

Curriculum:

- Incorporate SunSmart programs on skin care and skin cancer prevention into the curriculum at all grade levels.
- Work with the parent community to educate them about the importance of applying and providing SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for their children to use daily from mid-August to the end of April.
- Regularly reinforce SunSmart behaviour in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, and student and teacher activities.
- Ensure the SunSmart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (e.g. camps, excursions, sporting events).

Environment:

- Schedule a hot day timetable when the temperature reaches 32 degrees. This will enable the students and staff to spend their breaks indoors.
- Organise outdoor activities to be held in areas with plenty of shade whenever possible.
- Work toward increasing the number of shelters and trees so as to provide adequate shade in school grounds.
- Hold Whole School Assemblies will be indoors when temperatures are over 32 degrees Celsius. At the discretion of the Leadership Team a decision will be made regarding the appropriateness of having an assembly if the temperature is too hot.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed with student, parent and community input as part of the school's 3 year review cycle.