



Clayton North Primary School
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SunSmart Policy

RATIONALE

A balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first 10 years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health.

AIMS

This SunSmart Policy has been developed to:

- Ensure all students and staff have some UV exposure for vitamin D.
- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times.
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's SunSmart policy.

IMPLEMENTATION

Staff are encouraged to access the SunSmart UV Alert at [sunsmart.com.au](https://www.sunsmart.com.au) to find out daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy. There is a SunSmart widget on the school website too.

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities from **September to the end of April** and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

1. Shade

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The school council ensures through the Principal that there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas. Further where this shade is lacking the school council will support budget allocations towards maintaining a sufficient number of shelters.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- 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.

2. Clothing

- Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code. 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 and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

3. Hats

- **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. Baseball or peak caps are not considered a suitable alternative.

4. Sunglasses [OPTIONAL]

- 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.

5. Sunscreen

- Students must provide their own SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
- The school will consult with families of children with naturally very dark skin who may not be required to wear sunscreen to help with vitamin D requirements. Children with naturally very dark skin do not normally need to apply sunscreen because of their high level of melanin (skin pigment) which reduces ultraviolet radiation absorption. In these instances, sunscreen application is a decision for families to make.

Staff OHS and Role modelling

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, when the UV is 3 and above staff:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible

Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

Curriculum

Programs on skin cancer prevention and vitamin D are included in the curriculum for all year levels. Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and on student enrolment.

REFERENCES

- Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- The Compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian government school education: Principle 3 (2012)
- DEECD School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV protection (2011)
- DEECD Health, Safety & Workcover
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) Occupational Health & Safety Guidelines

- Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) Compliance Framework
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas (Oct 2011)
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools -Government Response
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight (2008)

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle, in full consultation with all staff.

Date Implemented	Re-Ratified by School Council February 19 th 2018
Author	Brian Mills
Approved By	Staff; School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	
Date Reviewed	February 19 th 2018
Responsible for Review	Assistant Principal
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