



WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUNSMART POLICY

PURPOSE

At Willow Grove Primary School, the SunSmart policy will develop an awareness of the need for skin protection. This policy is implemented from the beginning of September to the end of April (when average UV levels are 3 and above in Victoria). During these months, particular care is taken between 10am-2pm (11am-3pm) daylight saving time when UV levels reach their peak.

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.

OBJECTIVES

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.

Staff are encouraged to access the **SunSmart UV Alert at sunsmart.com.au** to find out daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

We use 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, the level that can damage skin and eyes. During these months, wide-brimmed school hats will need to be worn.

1. Shade

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The school council makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- 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 and sports uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and longer sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts.
- Students who participate in outdoor water activities are required to provide their own t-shirt or rash vest.

3. Hats

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, (legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats), whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not considered a suitable alternative. Hats are required to have strings in place. During Term 4, the school will conduct a hat audit, informing parents of any repairs that need to be made. New students arriving will be given their first hat free of charge.

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

- The school supplies SPF 50+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use and students will be encouraged to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices and announcements, informing parents through the newsletter).

Staff OHS and Role modelling

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, during the months of September to April, staff:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses (optional) when outside
- will be encouraged to apply SPF 50+ 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.
- SunSmart 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.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the schools 3 year review cycle or as required due to changes that require earlier consideration.

Ratification	Review Date	Policy Number	Date Produced
Date- 15/05/2012 17/11/2015	2018		April,2012

Relevant Documents / Links

- DEAT [The Compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian government school education](#): Principle 3 (2012)
- DEAT School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) [Sun & UV protection](#) (2011)
- DEAT [OHSMS Implementation Guide](#) (2009)
- DEAT [Building Quality Standards Handbook](#) (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas (Oct 2011)
- DEAT [Guidelines for School Playgrounds](#) –Playground safety management: Section 3.2.5 (2012)
- DEAT [Outdoor activities](#)
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) [Occupational Health & Safety Checklist](#)
- Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) Compliance Framework: [Sun Protection](#) / [Health & safety](#)
- [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework](#) (VEYLDF)
- 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)
- AS 4685.1: 2014 Playground equipment and surfacing – General safety requirements and test methods