



## **WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **SUNSMART POLICY**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Willow Grove 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.

#### **POLICY**

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

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](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).**

Willow Grove Primary School has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

## 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

Willow Grove Primary School's compulsory school uniform includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- 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

Students who participate in outdoor water activities are required to **provide their own t-shirt or rash vest.**

## 3. Hats

From **1 September to 30 April**, all students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, (broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket), whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not considered a suitable alternative. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the September to April time period, by parent or student choice. Hats should be well fitted with adjustable crown cord. Willow Grove Primary School's compulsory school uniform includes a broad brimmed hat that meets the above requirements.

At the end of Term 3, 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 engaged in outdoor activities 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**

Willow Grove Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours according to manufacturer's instructions.

The school supplies SPF 30+ (or higher) 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 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible.
- will encourage families and visitors 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**

Sun and UV safety education 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, 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.

<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Policy Number</b>	<b>Date Produced</b>
Date- 15/05/2012 17/11/2015 20/08/2019	2022		April,2012

## **Further Information and Resources**

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
  - Sun and UV Protection Policy
  - Duty of care
- SunSmart
- Achievement Program's SunSmart policy (Registration Required)