

SunSmart Policy

Date: May 2017

1. Rationale

Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. The school has a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff, including providing a SunSmart policy and education.

2. Aims

To strive to ensure that all students and staff attending Williamstown North Primary School are protected from over exposure to the sun and are encouraged and supported to develop independent skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection

3. Policy Context

This policy applies to all school events, on and off-site.

4. Implementation

- The school's Sun Smart Policy is implemented from 1st September to 30th April.
- Staff are strongly encouraged to wear a SunSmart hat for their well-being and as a role model to students.
- SunSmart strategies at Williamstown North Primary School are: -
 - **Students**
 - Between 1st September and 30th April all students must wear hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside (e.g. during recess and lunch breaks, sport, and when on excursions).
 - Failure to wear a hat at recess and lunch breaks will result in the students being directed to a covered area of the building.
 - All students are strongly encouraged to wear Sun Smart hats before and after school.
 - **The school**
 - Strongly encourages parent/guardians to provide SPF 30+ (or higher) broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for students.
 - Will provide sunscreen in classrooms for use at recess and lunchtimes.
 - Strongly encourages the application of sunscreen before school and prior to recess and lunch breaks.
 - Staff will remind students to apply sunscreen before going outside at recess and lunch and for outdoor activities including Excursions.
 - Strongly encourages students to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
 - Strongly encourages staff and parent/guardians to act as role models by practicing 'Sun Smart' behaviours.

- Has included sun protective clothing included in the School Dress Code: Wide brimmed hats, polo tops with a collar and long sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and requirement for a Rash Vest or T-Shirt to be worn for outdoor Swimming/Beach Programs and Activities.
 - The Health Hub will actively promote UV and SunSmart messages and education.
 - Will make reasonable adjustments for students with additional needs to support and encourage them to follow Sunsmart behaviours. Any adjustments will be made in full collaboration with parents.
- **Curriculum**
The school will:
 - Incorporate Sun Smart programs into the curriculum at all year levels.
 - Regularly reinforce SunSmart behaviours in a positive way through the school Newsletter, 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**
The school will:
 - Take particular care to avoid scheduling outdoor activities between 10.00am and 2.00pm (11.00am to 3.00pm during daylight savings time) between 1st September and 30th April, when UV index levels reach their peak during the day.
 - Organize outdoor activities to be held in areas with plenty of shade whenever possible.
 - Include consideration of increasing the number of shelters and trees to provide adequate shade in the school grounds.
 - Monitor and reflect all severe weather factors when considering school weather days

4. Evaluation

The School Wellbeing Key Reference Group and Education Sub-committee of School Council will review the effectiveness of this policy annually by: -

- Reviewing the SunSmart behaviours of students, staff, parent/guardians and visitors and making recommendations for improvement.
- Updating and promoting curriculum materials relevant to Sun Smart activities.
- Monitoring the adequacy of shaded areas.

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school council schedule.

This Policy was ratified by the School Council in May 2017.