

YARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUNSMART POLICY

CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Issued	Key Changes	Review
2.0	2018	Aligned with SunSmart Regulations	February 2021

RATIONALE

Arising from our understanding of the dangers of UV rays, particularly on young sensitive skin and the dangers from being exposed at such a young age, we have developed and implemented a SunSmart policy to ensure that:

- Students are educated in the potential dangers of being exposed to UV rays
- Students are instructed in how to protect themselves from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun
- Staff and students adopt good personal sun-safe practices
- Appropriate OH&S strategies are implemented to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors
- Duty of care requirements are supported.

POLICY STATEMENT

Yarra Primary School will:

- Encourage all members of the school community to protect themselves from damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun
- Ensure all students and staff have some UV exposure for Vitamin D.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Aim for the maintenance of a healthy UV exposure balance for students and staff, by following our sun protection policy from the beginning of September until the end of April. From May until August, sun protection is not used unless UV index is above 3. Particular care is to be taken between 10am and 3 pm when the UV index rates reach their peak.
- The SunSmart policy is considered when planning outdoor events such as camps, excursions and sporting events.

Seek shade

- Provide a safe school environment with shade for students, staff and the school community.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or sun-protective clothing are asked to play in the shade.

Slip on sun-protective clothing

- Sun-protective clothing is included in our school uniform.

Slip on a hat

- Students will be required to wear hats which protects their face, neck and ears from September to the end of April, when they are outside.
- Hats must be broad brimmed, legionnaire or a bucket hat. Baseball caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

Slop on sunscreen

- The use of SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is encouraged, with time allowed for applying sunscreen. Strategies will be developed to help students remember to apply sunscreen before going outdoor.
- **Parents are encouraged to** supply SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for student's use.

Slide on sunglasses

- Where practical, 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.

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, parent meetings, staff meetings and school assemblies. Staff are requested, and families and visitors to the school encouraged, to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviours including wearing appropriate hats and clothing when outdoors.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The school council and staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy (at least once every three years) and revise the policy when required by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart.

SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

DEFINITIONS

- UV – Ultraviolet radiation
- Vitamin D – Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- [The compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian Government School Education: Principle 3 \(2012\)](#)
- [DET School Policy & Advisory Guide \(SPAG\) Sun & UV Protection \(2011\)](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch. 5 Reg. 1 \(1.2\)](#)