



# SUNSMART

## POLICY

### **Rationale:**

- Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Adolescence is a critical period in which sun exposure is likely to contribute to the incidence of skin cancer and eye damage. Approximately 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practicing sun protection during childhood and adolescence. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and they must be protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school.

### **Aims:**

- To increase student and community awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by UV radiation.
- To work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for the entire school community.
- To encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures.
- To ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's sun protection policy.

### **Implementation:**

- Sun protective clothing is included in our school dress code
- All students and staff are required to wear school approved bucket hats, broad brimmed hats or similar that shade their face, neck and ears when outside. At the discretion of the teacher, Baseball style caps may be worn during sports classes if broad-brimmed or bucket hats are impractical. The Uniform shop will ensure that hats are available for purchase at all times.
- Rash vests or T-shirts or similar are compulsory for students waiting to compete in outdoor swimming events.
- Broad spectrum SPF 30+ water resistant sunscreen will be readily available in all primary classrooms and on excursions and camps and in staff areas for use by both students and staff.
- Staff will encourage the use of sunscreen by students, will model sunscreen use, and will provide time for students to apply sunscreen before going outside.
- Consideration to sun protection will be given when planning all outdoor events including assemblies, excursions and sporting events, and where possible events will be scheduled earlier in the morning, later in the afternoon or indoors.
- School council will plan for, and provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable; particularly over high-density areas such as eating spaces, sandpits & play equipment and passive leisure locations. Temporary shade structures will be erected at events such as swimming and athletic sports, and shade will be a consideration when planning outdoor activities and excursions.
- Students will be encouraged to utilise shade when outside during terms 1 and 4, but this will be compulsory for students not wearing hats or sun protective clothing.
- The school newsletter, school assemblies, and staff meetings will be used to highlight and reinforce the Sunsmart policy.
- Sunsmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.

References: S438-2007 New Sun Protection Program for Secondary Schools,  
[www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au)

Secondary School Sunsmart Program - <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/browse.asp?ContainerID=1844>  
[http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/referenceguide/enviro/4\\_5.htm](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/referenceguide/enviro/4_5.htm)

- Our school has current accreditation (2014) as a Sunsmart Secondary School at the Cancer Council of Victoria.

**Evaluation:**

- The principal will ensure that School Council and staff review this policy as part of the school's cyclic 3 year review process.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

**May 2014**

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