

“LET PEACE BE FOUND HERE”

# St John's Primary School

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## SUN PROTECTION POLICY

### Rationale

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin damage, eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

### Objectives

This SunSmart Policy has been developed to:

- 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

### Our Sun Protection Measures

We use a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities whenever UV levels reach 3 and above (the level that can damage skin and eyes) which is typically from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria.

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the SunSmart widget on the school's website, the free SunSmart app, or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au).
- The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times.
- ☐ The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.

#### 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, canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.

- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.
- Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Children 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.

## **3. Hats**

- **All** students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not considered a suitable alternative.

## **4. Sunscreen**

- Students must provide their own SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

## **Staff OHS and Role modelling**

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above staff:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 30+ 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 and sunscreen) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

## **Curriculum**

- Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum for all Grades.
- 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.

## **Relevant Documents/Links**

- DEECD School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV protection (2016)
- DEECD Health, Safety 7 Workcover
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) Occupational Health & Safety Guidelines
- Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) Compliance Framework
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas (Oct 2011)
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools - Government Response
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- ARPANSA Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers (2016)
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles

- AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 2604:2012 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: 4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product
- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.6.2.1: General considerations, 6.3.9: Shade and sun protection, Appendix A: Shade and sun protection

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