

SUNSMART

POLICY

Rationale:

- Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school.

Aims:

- To educate students as to suitable sunsmart protection strategies.
- To encourage children and teachers to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.
- Ensure all students and staff have some UV exposure for Vitamin D.
- Support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors. Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004.

Implementation:

- Children will be required to wear School Council approved school uniform, which will include shirts with collars, long sleeved garments, longer styled shorts and skirts, broad brimmed hats or bucket hats from September to the end of April.
- Staff will act as role models by also wearing broad brimmed hats or bucket hats when outside.
- Appropriate School Council approved school uniform hats for students will be readily available from the clothing store in Ouyen.
- Staff members may wear broad brimmed hats of their own choosing or choose to wear a school supplied School Council approved school uniform hat if they wish.
- Children without broad brimmed hats will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas.
- Children will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Sunscreen will be provided in each classroom, and on excursions. Sunscreen will generally be applied by students themselves. Teachers may apply sunscreen to very young or disabled students if necessary, and if written parental approval is provided. The use-by date of sunscreen will be monitored and replaced when necessary.
- Whenever possible, outside activities on hot days will be scheduled before 11:00 am.
- The school council will provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable; particularly over high density play areas such as sand pits and play equipment.
- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the sunsmart message.
- Sunsmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.
- Our school will update policies and membership reviews with the Cancer Council of Victoria as required.
- During Terms from May to end August there will be daily monitoring of UV Levels. When 3 and above, students are required to wear a hat and sun protection. Levels accessed from www.sunsmart.com.au
- Posters and reminder notices are displayed to encourage and remind students.
- Students are required to wear a rash vest or t shirt for outdoor swimming.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

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

May 2014

References: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/sun.aspx>
<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/default.asp>