



Wattle Park Primary School



Wattle Park Primary School SunSmart policy

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

Purpose

This SunSmart policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support duty of care requirements; and
- support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Background

Too much of the sun's UV 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.

Procedures

- 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 sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the **daily local sun protection times** (whenever UV levels are 3 or higher), typically from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria.

Healthy physical environment

1. *Seek shade*

- The school council makes sure there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas e.g. where students have lunch, canteen, assemblies, sports, outdoor lessons and popular play spaces.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.

Healthy social environment

2. *Slip on sun protective 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 and elbow-length sleeves, longer dresses and shorts. Rash Vests or T-shirts are strongly encouraged for outdoor water sports/play

3. *Slap on a hat*

- All students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket hat), whenever they are outside. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

3. *Slop on sunscreen*

- Students must provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
- The school supplies SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours or more frequently if sweating or swimming.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. Eg. Reminder notices and verbal reminders.

Learning and skills

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels through the Health and Physical Education program.

Engaging children, educators, staff and families

- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:
 - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
 - apply sunscreen; and
 - seek shade whenever possible.

Monitoring and review

- The school council and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years) by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at sunsmart.com.au.
- SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

Next policy review: 2020

Relevant documents / links

Legislation and Standards

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#): Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)
- AS 4685.1: 2014 Playground equipment and surfacing – General safety requirements and test methods