

Mount Evelyn Primary School School Policies Manual



SunSmart Policy

Rationale:

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 strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70.

Our SunSmart Policy has been developed to ensure that all children attending this school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun. It is to be implemented throughout the year, with particular emphasis from 1st September until the end of April.

Aim:

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 our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

Implementation:

Environment

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.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

Behaviours

Slip on sun protective clothing

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirts with collars and broad rimmed hats.

Slap on a sun protective hat

- During terms 1 and 4 all children are to wear school approved hats – a wide brimmed hat which protects the face, neck and ears, whenever they are outdoors. Outdoors includes recess, lunch, sport, camps and excursions and Out of School Hours Care. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative

Slop on sunscreen

- The school supplies SPF50 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student use.
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (applied at least 20 minutes 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. Reminders from teachers).

Slide on sunglasses

- Students may choose 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.

Learning

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Resources:

Legislation and Standards

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#): Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)
- DET School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) [Sun & UV protection](#) (2019)
- www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-schools/resources-schools-early-childhood

Evaluation:

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