



# SunSmart Policy

## **PURPOSE:**

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Currently two out of three Australians develop some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. 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.

Our SunSmart policy has been developed to ensure that all children attending Upper Ferntree Gully Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun.

## **IMPLEMENTATION:**

- 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.
  - 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) or [myuv.com.au](http://myuv.com.au).
1. Whenever outside children will wear wide brimmed hats which protect face, neck and ears (e.g. recess, lunch, sport, excursions).
  2. A "no-hat no-play" rule will be enforced from mid-August until 30<sup>th</sup> April. If children do not have either a wide brimmed or legionnaire hat during recess or lunchtime they will be sent to hard cover areas. Staff and parents will be encouraged to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviours.
  3. 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 and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming
  4. Children will be encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
  5. Correct SunSmart behaviour will be regularly reinforced in a positive way through newsletters and student learning activities in class.
  6. During specialist programs which are conducted outside, children who do not have the correct protection will not participate in the activity and parents will be notified.
  7. The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities. The Cancer Council UV index will be displayed on the school website, this information comes directly from the Bureau of Meteorology.
  8. 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.
  9. Students and staff are actively encouraged to apply sunscreen regularly on themselves at least 20 minutes prior to going out in the sun and reapplied every two hours. To prevent allergy issues arising, students are to supply their own sun screen. Their own sunscreen must be SPF30 (or higher) broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. Sunscreen brought to school is to be either roll on, squeeze tube or pump pack. Spray on sunscreen is not permitted due to the possibility of accidental eye damage. This will be included on the parent supplies letter.
  10. The School Uniform policy will be monitored to ensure that the SunSmart suggestions for sun protective clothing are incorporated.
  11. SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, and student and teacher activities and on student enrolment.



# SunSmart Policy

- 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.

Ratified by School Council:	2017
Signature School Council President	Tim Seipolt
Next Review Date:	2018 - -