

Mount Waverley Primary School

SunSmart POLICY



'Achieving Excellence Together'

2020

Principal: Greg Paine

School Council President: Dean Goble



MOUNT WAVERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

SunSmart Policy

RATIONALE

Excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin and eye damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. High levels of sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contribute significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer. Australia has the highest rate in the world.

Mount Waverley Primary School's (MWPS) SunSmart policy has been developed to ensure all students attending our school are protected from skin damage caused by the sun. The policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

PURPOSE

1. To provide SunSmart strategies for all students, parents and staff attending Mount Waverley Primary School, in order to maintain a healthy UV exposure balance including protection from sun damage caused by harmful UV rays
2. Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever the UV index levels reach 3 (Moderate) or above (generally mid-August to the end of April)
3. Work towards a safe school environment which provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times
4. Support students to develop independent sun protect skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection
5. Ensure families and new staff are informed of the school's SunSmart policy via the school website.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

MWPS has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for students and staff.

Shade

MWPS will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- where students may congregate around classrooms / buildings
- outdoor deck areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas
- garden areas and oval.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at MWPS that may impact on the level of shading available to staff and students, a review of the shaded areas available will be conducted and further shading installed as appropriate.

MWPS staff encourage children to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities. Teachers are encouraged to organise outdoor activities in areas of shade where possible.

Sun Protective Uniform/Clothing

MWPS school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- polo shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts, dresses and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

MPWS from **15 August to 30 April**, all students **must** wear a school approved sun protective hat to shade the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. School hats are broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the 15 August to 30 April time period, by parent or student choice.

Students are reminded to wear hats outdoors. Staff encourage children to wear suitable clothing and hats to protect the face, neck, ears and shoulders whenever they are outside e.g. recess, lunch, sport, excursions, from 15 August to the 30 April.

Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Staff are required to wear a sun protective hat while on yard duty and during outdoor programs and events.

MWPS encourages staff and parents to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviours.

Sunscreen

MWPS encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

MWPS staff remind students to apply their own personal sunscreen before going outdoors.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

Curriculum

The SunSmart policy will be reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (e.g. camps, excursions, sporting events between 15 August and 30 April).

Students are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure.

MWPS teachers

1. incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention into the curriculum
2. regularly reinforce SunSmart behaviour in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.

Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote SunSmart behaviour across the school community.

Engaging Students, Staff and Families

MWPS provides access to SPF30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students use.

MWPS ensures Block Approvals for the use of sun screen are distributed to all families at the commencement of each school year and to new families on enrolment throughout the year.

SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, Compass, school website, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. MWPS may provide families and staff with information through communication strategies i.e. Compass, newsletters, noticeboards, school website, school assemblies.

DOCUMENTS AND LINKS RELATING THIS POLICY

1. DET Policy Guide Sun and UV Protection
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/sun.aspx>
2. DET Dress Code: Health and Safety considerations
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/Pages/considerations.aspx>
3. Bureau of Meteorology – About UV and Sun Protection Times
<http://www.bom.gov.au/uv/index.shtml>
4. Reference: The SunSmart policy provided by the Cancer Council Victoria
5. MWPS Student Wellbeing, Engagement & Inclusion policy
6. MWPS Extreme Weather Conditions policy
7. Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's regular evaluation cycle and will be reviewed in four years' time or as required.

Policy Area: Student Wellbeing	Ratified by School Council: June 2020	Next Review: 2024
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