



SunSmart

POLICY

Mount Pleasant Road Primary School

A. Rationale:

A.1. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. 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.

B. Aims:

- B.1. To educate students as to suitable sunsmart protection strategies.
- B.2. To encourage students and teachers to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.
- B.3. To work towards a safe school environment that provides adequate shade for students and staff.

C. Implementation:

- C.1. Staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au or on the free SunSmart app to assist with the implementation of this policy.
- C.2. A combination of sun protection measures are used for all outdoor activities from **mid-August to the end of April** and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above
- C.3. Students will be required to wear School Council approved school uniform, which will include shirts with collars, long sleeved garments, longer styled shorts and skirts, and broad brimmed hats that shade the face, neck and ears from **mid-August to the end of April**.
- C.4. As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, Staff will act as role models by also wearing broad brimmed hats, covering clothing, if practical sunglasses, apply sunscreen and seek shade whenever possible when outside.
- C.5. Appropriate School Council approved school uniform hats for students will be readily available in the uniform store room for purchase.
- C.6. Students without broad brimmed hats or sun protective clothing will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas. Students who habitually don't bring a hat may be restricted from playing outside.
- C.7. Students will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30 or higher) which will generally be applied before school and/or reapplied by students at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours or more frequently if sweating or swimming.
- C.8. Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices)
- C.9. School Council also approves students wearing close fitting UV protection wrap around AS1067 sunglasses whenever they are outside.
- C.10. Whenever possible, outside activities on hot days will be scheduled before 11:00 am.
- C.11. 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.
- C.12. The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the sunsmart message.
- C.13. Sunsmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.

D. Evaluation:

D.1. This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

E. Reference:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/sun.aspx>

Legislation and Standards

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

Relevant documents / links

- DET [The Compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian government school education](#): Principle 3 (2012)
- DET School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) [Sun & UV protection](#) (2016)
- DET [OHSMS Implementation Guide](#) (2009)
- DET [Building Quality Standards Handbook](#) (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas (Oct 2011)
- DET [Guidelines for School Playgrounds](#) –Playground safety management: Section 3.2.5 (2012)
- DET [Outdoor activities](#)
- [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework](#) (VEYLDF)
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools -Government Response
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight](#) (2008)
- AS 4685.1: 2014 Playground equipment and surfacing – General safety requirements and test methods