



Black Hill Primary School Sun Smart Policy

PURPOSE:

This Sun Smart policy provides guidelines to:

- Ensure all students and staff have some UV exposure for vitamin D.
- Ensure all students and staff are well protected from too much UV exposure by using a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.
- Ensure the outdoor environment is sun safe and provides shade for students and staff.
- Ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills.
- Support duty of care requirements
- Support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harm for staff and visitors

Background

A balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Exposure to the sun's UV during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health.

Legislation and Standards

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

Procedures

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au website or via the free Sun Smart app.
- A combination of sun protection measures are used for all outdoor activities during the sun protection times (whenever UV levels reach 3 and above), typically from **mid-August to the end of April** in Victoria.

Healthy physical environment

1. Seek shade

- A shade audit is conducted quarterly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The school council makes sure there are shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities and excursions.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- 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.

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 style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

3. *Slap on a hat*

- **All** staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears.
- **All students are required to wear the school's** broad-brimmed hat, whenever they are outside.
- Students must provide their own SPF 30 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.
- Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

5. *Slide on sunglasses [if practical]*

- Where practical staff are encouraged 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. Students are supported by the school, if they choose to wear sunglasses outside.

Learning and skills

- Programs on skin cancer prevention and vitamin D are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and on student enrolment.

Engaging children, educators, staff and families

- Staff and families are provided with information on sun protection and vitamin D through family newsletters, noticeboards and the school's website.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, when the UV is 3 and above staff, families and visitors:
 - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses when outside
 - apply sunscreen
 - seek shade whenever possible

Monitoring and review

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

EVALUATION:

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

This policy was reviewed and accepted by School Council in June 2017.: