

# SunSmart Policy

## RATIONALE

The College has a responsibility to create environments and encourage behaviours which reflect a healthy UV exposure balance, ensuring some sun exposure for vitamin D while minimising the risk of skin cancer. 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. Yet, most skin cancers can be prevented by using sun protection measures at appropriate times of the year. Given school hours fall within peak UV periods of the day, schools have a responsibility to adopt healthy UV practices, support the continued use of sun protection habits formed in primary school, and to meet their duty of care obligations.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, students, and parents/guardians at the College.

## DEFINITION

The **SunSmart** program is jointly funded by [Cancer Council Victoria](#) and the Victorian Government and leads the world in the prevention of skin cancer.

**Ultraviolet (UV)** radiation is a type of energy produced by the sun and is the main cause of skin cancer. Too much UV exposure 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 later in life.

## POLICY STATEMENT

The College is committed to providing staff, volunteers, students, and parents/guardians with sun protection practices and information on the importance of taking precautions when exposed to sunlight to help prevent the risk of serious skin problems both now and in the future.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The Department of Education's [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#) and [SunSmart](#) guidelines will be used as resources to implement sun protection practices at the College.
2. These practices will be applied to all outdoor activities including sports carnivals, excursions, camps, break times, and gardening and maintenance works.
3. The sun protection times are a forecast from the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach three or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach three or higher from mid-August to the end of April.
4. Staff, volunteers, and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the SunSmart widget on the SIMON home page or the [SunSmart App](#).
5. A combination of sun protection measures should be applied during the daily sun protection times, as per the [Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide](#) message.
6. A SunSmart hat is included in the school uniform. Students not wearing the appropriate hat and protective clothing during recess, lunch, or other outdoor activities will be asked to stay indoors, or in the shade or other suitable area protected from the sun.
7. The College will supply SPF50 broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff, volunteer, and student use in accordance with the manufacturer's directions. Students will also be encouraged to provide their own sunscreen and apply when participating in outdoor activities.

8. Staff must ensure they have strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before and during outdoor activities.
9. The Principal and Business Manager are responsible for ensuring shade is available in the school grounds, particularly in areas where students congregate, and the provision of shade is considered when planning for future buildings and grounds.
10. UV radiation exposure and the availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities and excursions.
11. Appropriate behaviour should be modelled by staff, volunteers, students, and parents/guardians to reinforce this policy, including wearing a sun protective hat, covering clothing, sunglasses if practical, applying sunscreen, and seeking shade whenever possible.
12. Staff are supported to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun protection education across the curriculum.
13. This policy will be available on the College intranet and Parent Access Module (PAM), and communicated through the school newsletter, student diary, daily messages, staff meetings, and other relevant forums.

## **POLICY REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed every two years or as needed.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS/LINKS**

Department of Education [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)

[SunSmart](#) guidelines

Duty of Care Policy

[MEL Workplace Health & Safety Policy](#)

[VRQA Minimum standards and other requirements for schools](#)

[Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)

## **REVIEW HISTORY**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date released</b>	<b>Next review</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Approved</b>
1.0	February 2020	February 2022	Principal's Assistant	College Leadership Team
2.0	February 2022	February 2024	Principal's Assistant	College Leadership Team
3.00	February 2024	February 2026	Principal's Assistant	College Leadership Team

