



1. BACKGROUND

A healthy 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. Overexposure to UV during childhood and adolescence is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is necessary for the development and maintenance of healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. SunSmart recommends that all schools have a SunSmart policy to ensure a healthy UV exposure balance – one that minimises skin cancer risk and helps with vitamin D. Adopting a SunSmart policy also addresses the School's duty of care and health and safety responsibilities towards staff and students. This Policy sets out the strategies Williamstown Primary School will adopt to ensure every effort is made to minimize the risk to students of skin damage from the sun.

2. PURPOSE

The aim of this policy is to:

- Ensure all students and staff maintain a healthy UV exposure balance.
- Encourage the entire School community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above.
- Work towards a safe School environment that provides shade for students, staff and the School community at appropriate times.
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the School's SunSmart Policy.

3. DEFINITIONS

"SunSmart" is a jointly funded initiative of the Cancer Council of Victoria and VicHealth, which leads the world in promoting a balance between the benefits and harms of ultra violet (UV) radiation.

"School" means Williamstown Primary School.

4. PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The procedures for the implementation of the SunSmart policy can be found in the School's Staff Administration Manual.

4.1 Behaviour

From the commencement of Term 4 to the end of Term 1:

- It is a requirement for all children to wear an 8 –10 cm broad-rimmed or legionnaire hat and at least a t-shirt whenever they are outside. Parents/guardians will be expected to supply these items as a key part of the school uniform.
- Children will be directed to stay in designated shaded areas if not wearing a hat.
- SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen will be provided for staff and students, however, children are expected to apply sunscreen every day before school, carry a personal roll-on sunscreen and apply this sunscreen before going outside for recess, lunch, sport or any other outdoor activity.

- Children will be educated about and encouraged to use available shade at recess and lunchtimes.
- All adults at the School will be encouraged to act as role models for practising SunSmart behaviours by wearing broad-brimmed or legionnaire hats.
- Children will be encouraged to frequently drink water, especially during hot weather.

4.2 Curriculum

- Skin cancer education and prevention programs will be incorporated into the School's curriculum. Education and encouragement to comply with this Policy will be particularly prevalent from 1 September when UV levels start to increase.
- SunSmart behaviour will regularly be incorporated into the normal communication channels of the School and its community, particularly during Terms 1 and 4.
- The procedures for being SunSmart are reiterated and reinforced at the beginning of every school year and at regular intervals where relevant.

4.3 Environment

Shade structures are provided around the School. Outdoor activities for students will, wherever possible be:

- scheduled before 11.00am and after 3.00pm during Terms 1 and 4; and
- held in areas which provide plenty of shade.

5. REVIEW AND POLICY HISTORY

This policy is due for formal review in June 2017 although it may be changed at any time as required after discussion with School Council and the Principal.

Policy History:

Version Approval Date	Summary of Changes
August 2011	Comprehensive review
June 2014	Updated