



# ST MARY'S SCHOOL MANSFIELD SUNSMART POLICY

# St Mary's School Mansfield

## SunSmart Policy

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### Rational

Exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. This policy applies to all school events on and offsite. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and protected from over-exposure to UV radiation. This policy is to be implemented during Terms One and Four when UV radiation is at its strongest. Whenever UV levels are 3 or higher our SunSmart policy is enacted.

### Aim

- To educate students as to suitable SunSmart protection strategies.
- To encourage and support children and teachers to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun and to ensure the outdoor environment provides shade to all staff and students.
- To implement a range of OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and the associated harms for all children, staff and visitors.
- To provide parent education in SunSmart protection strategies.

### Implementation

*The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from September to the beginning of April.*

To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the [SunSmart app](#) or at [SunSmart.com.au](#) . **The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times.**

- Sun protective clothing is included as part of the St. Mary's school uniform, including shirts with collars and sleeves. Although not part of official school uniform, rash vests are required when swimming.
- Children are required to wear Cancer Council approved close-weave bucket hats (at least 6-8 cm rigid brim) from September to the beginning of April whenever they are outside.
- Staff act as role models by also wearing hats when outside.
- Staff and students must wear hats for all outdoor activities in Terms One and Four.
- Children without school approved hats are restricted to play in designated shaded areas.
- Shade provision is considered when planning outdoor activities in Terms One and Four and shade assessments are conducted regularly.
- The school has provided some shade structures for students and encourages children to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.

- Staff members and students are actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Sunscreen is applied by students at school when UV restrictions are in place, according to the manufacturer's directions, before recess, lunch breaks and outdoor activities. Sunscreen will be made available by the school for all students when they are on an excursion/sporting activity or school camp.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors: wear sun protective hat, covering clothing, sunglasses, apply sunscreen and seek shade.
- Whenever possible, outside activities in Terms One and Four, should be scheduled before 11:00 am if shade is unavailable.
- A Hot Weather Program applies when the temperature reaches 36 degrees celcius or higher.
- The school ensure that school uniform hats are available for purchase from the uniform shop.
- The school newsletter, skoolbag app, website and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the SunSmart policy.
- SunSmart activities and sun protection, including an awareness of accessing shade will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.
- The SunSmart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events. E.g. camps and excursions.
- Our school has secured accreditation as a SunSmart School at the Cancer Council Victoria during 2018/2019

## **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the School Policy Timeline.

## Relevant documents / links

- DET School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) [Sun & UV protection](#) (2016)
- DET [The Compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian government school education](#): Principle 3 (2012)
- DET [OHSMS Implementation Guide](#) (2009)
- DET [Building Quality Standards Handbook](#) (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas
- DET [Guidelines for School Playgrounds](#) –Playground safety management: Section 3.2.5 (2012)
- DET [Outdoor activities](#)
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) [Your Child's Health Wellbeing and Safety](#) (Primary)
- Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) [Managing a school – Health & Safety Compliance Framework: OHS >Sun Protection](#)
- [My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia](#) (2011)
- [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework \(VEYLDF\)](#) (May 2016)
- Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) [The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#) - Principle 3.2
- [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers](#) (APST) – Standard 4.4 and 7.2
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into [Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools](#) –Final Report
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 2604:2012 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: [4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product](#)
- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation. *6.2.1: General considerations, 6.3.9: Shade and sun protection, Appendix A: Shade and sun protection*

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