

Sun Protection Policy for St Anthony's School Glen Huntly



SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Rationale

Too much ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can cause sunburn, skin damage, eye damage and skin cancer.

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. Overexposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is known to be a major cause of skin cancer.

Our sun protection policy is followed from the beginning of September until the end of April and whenever the UV Index level reaches 3 and above*.

Objectives

The goals of the SunSmart Policy are to:

- Increase student and community awareness about skin cancer and sun protection
- 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
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's SunSmart policy

Our sun protection strategies

All children and staff use a combination of sun protection measures whenever the UV Index reaches 3 and above* to ensure they are well protected from the sun. Particular care is taken between 10 am and 2 pm (11 am and 3 pm daylight saving time) when UV Index levels reach their peak during the day.

Our SunSmart policy is considered when planning all outdoor events e.g. assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events. Where possible, we have outdoor activities or events earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon, or we try using indoor venues.

1. Shade

- The school council makes sure there is a sufficient number of 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.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.
- Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

2. Clothing

- Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. School clothing is made of close weave fabric and includes shirts with collars and longer sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

3. Hats

- Children are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside.

(Please note: Baseball caps do not offer enough protection and are therefore not recommended.)

4. Sunglasses [SUGGESTED]

- Children and 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.

5. Sunscreen

- SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is available for staff and children's use. Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors.
- Staff remind children to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

Role modelling

- Staff act as role models by:
 - wearing sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
 - applying SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
 - seeking shade whenever possible
- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses and sunscreen) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

Curriculum

- Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum for all grade levels.
- SunSmart behaviour is reinforced regularly 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.

Review

- The school council and staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the sun protection policy (at least once every three years) and revise the policy when required.
- Next policy review: 2018

Relevant Documents / Links

- Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide: 4.5.11 Skin protection www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/referenceguide/enviro/default.htm
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Sections 21 and 23: Main Duties of
Employers Section 25: Duties of Employees
www.worksafe.vic.gov.au > Laws and Regulations > Acts and Regulations
- *SunSmart UV Alert (issued whenever the UV Index reaches 3 and above) www.sunsmart.com.au or www.bom.gov.au/announcements/uv/