

SUNSMART POLICY

Laburnum Primary School

Rationale:

This SunSmart policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection
- support duty of care requirements
- support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors

Background and Legislation

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

Legislation and Standards

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

Implementation:

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the free [SunSmart app](#), or at [sunsmart.com.au](#) or [myuv.com.au](#).
- The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities and will commence at **9-00am each day from 15th August until the 30th April** each year
- The sun protection times from the Bureau of Meteorology tell you the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher.
- Families are reminded about SunSmart protection via the newsletter

Healthy physical environment

1. Seek shade

- The school council should make sure there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas e.g. where students have lunch, canteen, assemblies, sports, outdoor lessons and popular play spaces.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- 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.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

Healthy social environment

2. Slip on sun protective clothing

- Cool loose fitting sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric

3. Slap on a hat

- All students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaires, broad-brimmed or bucket hat) whenever they are outside. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

4. Slop on sunscreen

- Students and staff must provide their own SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
- Sunscreen is applied 20 minutes (if possible) before going outdoors and is reapplied every two hours or more frequently if sweating or swimming
- Strategies are in place to apply sunscreen before going outdoors

5. Slide-on sunglasses (if practical)

- Where practical, students 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 as possible of the eye area

Learning and skills

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum in all year levels

Engaging, children, educators, staff and families

- SunSmart behavior is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website, school assemblies, student and teacher activities, and in our dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts when outdoor swimming.
- As part of OHS UV risk control and role modelling, staff, families and visitors:
 - # wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses
 - # apply sunscreen
 - # seek shade wherever possible

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)
- 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](#)
- [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](#)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)
- AS 4685.1: 2014 Playground equipment and surfacing – General safety requirements and test methods

Evaluation:

The school council will evaluate this policy as part of the three year cycle of policy reviews.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in:

AUGUST 2017