



SunSmart Policy

Endorsed by School Council: February 2019

1. PURPOSE This policy has been developed as part of our commitment to a safe school environment to reduce the risk to students and staff of exposure to UV radiation from the sun.

2. GUIDELINES The sun protection policy is designed to:

- 2.1. increase student and whole-school awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by exposure to UV radiation
- 2.2. work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for the entire school community
- 2.3. encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- 2.4. ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's sun protection policy
- 2.5. ensure that all students are protected from skin damage caused by the overexposure to harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun. Programs and this policy will be implemented from mid-August to the end of April
- 2.6. endeavour to increase SunSmart knowledge and improve skin protection in the general school population.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the SunSmart widget on the school's website, the free SunSmart app or at sunsmart.com.au.

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. UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types.

- Strategies 3.1–3.4 (clothing, sunscreen, scheduling, role modelling) will be implemented from mid-August until the end of April, as this is when UV Index levels are high enough (Level 3 and above) to damage the skin and lead to skin cancer.
- Strategies 3.5–3.6 (shade and curriculum) are ongoing and will therefore be implemented at various times throughout the year.

3.1. Clothing - Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform. From mid-August to the end of April, or whenever UV Index levels reach level three, students will wear SunSmart hats so as to provide sun protection for the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside (recesses, lunch, P.E. classes, sport activities, excursions, outdoor assemblies etc.). The school hat is a SunSmart blue safety slouch or bucket hat. Students who do not have a SunSmart hat during recesses and lunch breaks will remain undercover near the canteen and will not be permitted to participate in outdoor excursions, sports activities etc. School uniform clothing is sun protective (cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric).

3.2. Sunscreen - Students are encouraged to bring their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. Staff should encourage students to use sunscreen and provide time for students

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to apply sunscreen before going outside (where possible at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every 2 hours if outdoors). Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies). The school community is educated about the correct use of sunscreen and the level of protection it provides, and support is sought from parents in educating their children in SunSmart strategies. The school will also provide additional sunscreen for those students who do not bring their own.

3.3. Scheduling - This policy is considered in the planning of all outdoor events such as assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events. Where possible, outdoor activities/events will be scheduled earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon, or indoor venues will be considered.

3.4. Role Modelling - Staff are encouraged to act as role models by using a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when outside. Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending school events.

3.5. Shade - The school council ensures shade is available in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate such as lunch areas, canteen, and outdoor lesson areas. The school council ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds. Processes for the planning of outdoor activities and excursions include the consideration of shade. Where possible, outdoor activities will be held in shaded areas. 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.

3.6. Curriculum - Sun protection and educational programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the school curriculum. Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community. Sun protective behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through a variety of channels such as newsletters, staff meetings and school assemblies. Appropriate posters and messages pertaining to SunSmart messages will be displayed and resources such as those provided by the Cancer Council Victoria will be utilised.

4. REVIEW The SunSmart Policy will be reviewed every three years (in accordance with the New Gisborne Primary School Policy Review Schedule) and membership renewal with SunSmart will be completed. SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed with whole staff, student, parent and community input as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Approval Body: School Council

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