

ARMADALE PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY

SCHOOL No. 2634

SunSmart Policy	
Authorisation: By the Armadale Primary School Council on the 21 st October 2011	Review Date: It is recommended that this policy is reviewed by the Curriculum & Policy Sub Committee by October 2014
Recommended: By the Curriculum & Policy Sub Committee	

1. PURPOSE

1.1 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. The purpose of this policy has been developed to ensure that all children attending the school are using appropriate Sunsmart measures to protect their skin from the harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 As part of the general Sunsmart policy our school will encourage and enforce a range of SunSmart strategies.

2.2 To develop in students, life-long sunsmart strategies aimed at protecting their skin from the sun. Staff are encouraged to access the daily SunSmart UV Alert at sunsmart.com.au (or on their own school website) to find out daily sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 The school will

3.1.1 Ensure that children wear the regulation hats as advised by the Anti-Cancer Council and supplied by the school's uniform shop between 1st September and 30th April, and on other days of high exposure

3.1.2 Apply a "No Hat, No Play" rule and children without the correct hat will spend recess and lunchtimes in a specially designated shaded area

3.1.3 Encourage students to have their hats available at school throughout the year so that they are available for excursions and sporting events, as well as for days of high exposure between 1st May and 31st August of each year.

3.1.4 Recommend that children have sunscreen provided by their parents/guardians to apply on days of high UV warning and when taking part in sporting events or excursions

3.1.5 Ensure that staff act as role models by wearing their hats when on yard duty or when attending school activities

3.1.6 Recommend to students that when UV Index average levels reach 3 and above, a combination of sun protection measures are used whenever outdoors. When average UV Index levels are below 3, sun protection measures will not be used from May until August unless near highly reflective surfaces such as snow, or whenever outside for extended periods.

3.1.7 Whenever possible work towards increasing the number of shelters and trees so as to provide adequate shade in the school grounds

3.2 Teachers will

3.2.1 Encourage children to wear school approved hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside (eg. recess, lunch sport and excursions)

Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and longer sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts

3.2.2 Enforce the wearing of approved sun hats (wide brimmed or legionnaire style) and children who do not wear these sun hats or covering clothing will be directed to the designated shade areas;

3.2.3 Encourage parents/guardians to provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen for student use whenever possible; Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen leaders)

3.2.4 Provide areas of shade and encourage children to use these areas for outdoor activities;

3.2.5 Organise outdoor activities to be held in areas of shade and schedule outdoor activities to avoid high UV exposure whenever possible.

3.2.6 Encourage staff and parents to act as role models by supporting practising Sunsmart practices;

ARMADALE PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY

SCHOOL No. 2634

3.2.7 Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention into the Personal Development school curriculum;

3.2.8 Regularly reinforce Sunsmart behaviour in a positive way through Newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.

3.3 Parents will

3.3.1 Encourage students to wear school approved uniform at all times as these to provide effective sun protection

3.3.2 Provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen for student use whenever possible;

3.3.3 Act as role models for children through (by) encouraging students to use the strategies outlined in this policy

3.4 Students will

3.4.1 Wear approved school uniform at all times as these to provide effective sun protection;

3.4.2 Wear approved sun hats and apply sunscreen as required throughout the day;

3.4.3 Participate in classroom and school activities that focus on using a variety of Sunsmart strategies.

3.4.4 Care for their hats in a responsible manner and ensure that they are always named

4. EVALUATION

The policy will be evaluated by teachers and parents by observing whether the objectives of the policy are being met through the school program and observations of student behaviours.

Relevant Documents / Links

- DEECD School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV protection (2011)
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 7.5.5 Shade Areas
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools -Government Response
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 Sections 21 and 23: Main Duties of Employers Section 25: Duties of Employees
- Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006) ARPANSA Radiation Protection Series No. 12
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight