



MONASH PRIMARY SCHOOL SUN PROTECTION POLICY

This policy applies to all school events on and off-site and is to be implemented throughout the school year.

Rationale

A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first ten years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health.

Objectives

This policy has been developed to:

- 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 at appropriate times
- ensure all students and staff have some UV radiation exposure for vitamin D
- assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's Sun Protection Policy.

1. Clothing

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

2. Sunscreen

- The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors for extended periods of time.

3. Hats

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

4. Shade

- A shade audit is conducted annually to determine the current availability and quality of 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 eg outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- Outdoor activities are scheduled outside the peak UV radiation times or in the shade where possible.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are directed to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Staff WHS and role modelling

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV radiation level is 3 and above staff will:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing when outside
- apply SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible

Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures e.g. sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade, when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

Curriculum

- Programs on skin cancer prevention and vitamin D are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and in student enrolment packs.

Policy review

The school council and staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the Sun Protection Policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.

Date of next Policy review: October 2018