



PATTERSON LAKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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SUNSMART: SUN PROTECTION POLICY

RATIONALE

The sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can't be seen or felt. Whatever the weather, it's important for people of all skin types to use sun protection whenever UV levels are three or higher.

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 strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70.

By teaching sensible sun protection habits from an early age and implementing sun protection measures, schools can play a significant role in reducing skin cancer risk.

PURPOSE

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 our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

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

PROCEDURES

- 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 measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the **daily local sun protection times**. 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. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.
- Certain health conditions and medications mean some people are more sensitive to UV radiation and need to use sun protection at all times regardless of the UV levels.

ENVIRONMENT

Seek shade

- The School Council makes sure there are enough shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas, e.g. where students have lunch, 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.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted termly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- 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.

Behaviours

Slip on sun protective clothing

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirts with collars and elbow-length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts.
- Rash vests or t-shirts are recommended for outdoor swimming and water activities.

Slap on a sun protective hat

- All students and staff wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brim or bucket hat), whenever they are outside **from mid August until the end of April, or whenever daily UV levels reach three or higher.**
- Caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.
- Students without a sun protective hat are provided with a spare hat where possible.

Slop on sunscreen

- Students provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
- The school supplies SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use, if required.
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

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 of the eye area as possible.

LEARNING

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures at the school including taking leadership roles in managing sun protection, e.g. accessing daily sun protection times, hat reminders and supporting sunscreen application.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

OHS

- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:
 - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
 - apply sunscreen; and
 - seek shade whenever possible.
- UV radiation exposure is considered as part of a [school's risk management and assessment](#) for all outdoor events and activities on and off-site e.g. UV radiation protection strategies (hats, clothing, shade, sunscreen) are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The School Council and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of our SunSmart policy (with input from families and students, where possible) and revise the policy as required.
- Our school is committed to our SunSmart membership and complete a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/advice-for/schools-early-childhood/renew-your-sunsmart-membership> - at least once every three years.
- As registered SunSmart members, we have submitted a copy of our policy to SunSmart and commit to implementing the sun protection measures as documented.
- Our SunSmart policy is available to staff, students, families and visitors.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS / LINKS

- SunSmart [Sun protection resources and information for schools](#)
- SunSmart [Sun protection advice for parents and carers](#)
- SunSmart [Sun protection information in different languages](#)
- DET Policy & Advisory Library [Sun protection guidelines](#) (June 2020)
- DET Policy & Advisory Library [Outdoor activities and working outdoors](#) (June 2020)
- Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) [Building Quality Standards Handbook \(BQSH\)](#): Section 5.1.3, 5.1.4 Shade Areas (May 2021)
- Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) [Guidelines to the Minimum Standards and Requirements for School Registration](#) - Care, safety and welfare of students p.23 (January 2022)
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) [Your Child's Health Wellbeing and Safety](#)
- [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework \(VEYLDF\)](#) (May 2016)
- Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT), [The Victorian Teaching Profession's Code of Conduct](#) - Principle 3.2 (May 2021)
- [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers \(AITSL\)](#) – Standard 4.4 and 7.2
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into [Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools – Final Report](#) (2007)
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guide on exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation \(UVR\)](#) (Dec 2019)

Last updated: May 2022

- AS 4174:2018 (Amd 2019) Knitted and woven shade fabrics
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016 (Amd 2021), Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- AS 4399:2020, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 2604:2021 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.6.2.1: General considerations, 6.3.9: Shade and sun protection, Appendix A: Shade and sun protection
- United Nations. 1989. "[Convention on the Rights of the Child.](#)" Treaty Series 1577 (November): 3
- World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Health Promoting Schools – *global standards and indicators*

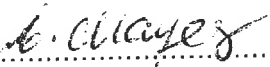
EVALUATION

The school should and if necessary update the policy at least once every 3 years. Next Review: May, 2025.

CERTIFICATION

This policy was ratified at the School Council meeting held at Patterson Lakes Primary School on 15/6/2022.

Signed..........
School Council President

Signed..........
Principal

