



SUN SMART POLICY

Policy No.3.6

Rationale:

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Wales Street Primary School to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV index levels are 3 or above (generally mid-August – end of April)
- ensure that there are outdoor environments that provide adequate shade for students and staff
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection
- support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure and associated harm for students and staff.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

POLICY

Excessive exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause health problems including sunburn, damage to skin and eyes, and an increased risk of skin cancer.

UV radiation:

- cannot be seen or felt
- can be reflected off surfaces such as buildings, asphalt, concrete, water, sand and snow
- can pass through light clouds
- varies in intensity across the year (highest in Victoria from mid-August – end of April)
- peaks during school hours

Sun safety is a shared responsibility and staff, parents and students are encouraged to implement a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above (typically from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria). Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the SunSmart widget on the school's website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

Wales Street Primary School has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Children and staff use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Particular care is taken between 10am and 3pm when UV levels reach their peak during the day.
- Our sunsmart policy is considered when planning all outdoor events.

Clothing/Hats

Wales Street Primary school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or a ribbed neck collar
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.
- Parents will be notified if their child continually fails to wear a sun smart hat or have inappropriate clothing coverage
- Ensure all children and staff wear broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat (with a brim of at least 6cm) which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside (recess, lunch, sport, excursions, camps and the Out of School Hours program) from September 1st until May 1st. The children need to have their shoulders and midriff covered when outdoors.
- Children without a sun smart hat or appropriate clothing coverage will be required to play in a designated area under shelter.

Sunscreen

- Provision of sunscreen will remain the responsibility of parents.
- Encourage the children to bring and apply a broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen, SPF 50+.
- Sunscreen should be applied at least 20mins before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours if outdoors.
- Children are reminded to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
- Staff and families should role model Sun Smart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

Shade

- Encourage the use of available areas of shade for outdoor activities, the drinking of water and appropriate play activities on hot days.
- The school council makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where children congregate.
- Whenever possible outdoor activities during Terms 1 and 4 should be scheduled before 11a.m.
- Encourage staff and parents to act as role models by practising Sun smart behaviour.
- Shade provision will be a consideration in all future buildings and grounds development.

Curriculum

- The SunSmart Policy will be regularly reinforced in the School Newsletter, at Assembly and through classroom activities.
- Sun smart activities will be part of the Health and Physical Education Program across all levels of the school.
- Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun smart behaviour across the school community.
- Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure.

Further Information and Resources

- the Department's Policy Advisory Library:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed every three years. The staff regularly monitors and reviews the effectiveness of the SunSmart Policy.

Version	Edited by/Comments	Next review
2013	Approved by School Council	2016
July 2016	Approved by School Council	2019
2021 Feb	Reviewed & Ratified by School Council	2024 Feb