

WODONGA SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUNSMART

SCHOOL SPECIFIC POLICY

Rationale:

- Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school.

Aims:

- To educate students as to suitable sunsmart protection strategies.
- To encourage children and teachers to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.
- To ensure all students and staff have some UV exposure for vitamin D
- To ensure all students and staff are well protected from too much UV exposure by using a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above
- Ensure the outdoor environment is sun safe and provides shade for students and staff
- Ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills
- Support duty of care requirements
- Support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors

Implementation:

- Children will be required to wear School Council approved sun protective school uniform that is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric, which will include broad brimmed hats from September to April and whenever UV levels reach 3 or more. Staff and students are encouraged to access the daily sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au or on the free Sunsmart app to assist with the implementation of this policy.
- Staff will act as role models by also wearing broad brimmed hats (at least 6cm rigid brim) when outside.
- Appropriate School Council approved school uniform hats for students will be readily available in the uniform store room for purchase.
- Staff members may wear broad brimmed hats of their own choosing so long as they have a 6cm or greater brim. Staff can choose to wear a school supplied School Council approved school uniform hat available from the uniform store if they wish.
- Children without broad brimmed hats will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas. Children who habitually don't bring a hat may be restricted from playing outside.
- Children will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Sunscreen will be provided in each classroom, and on excursions. Sunscreen will generally be applied by students themselves or with the assistance of their sunscreen buddy according to the manufacturer's directions, under the supervision of teachers. Teachers and ES staff members may apply sunscreen to very young or disabled students if necessary. The use-by date of sunscreen will be monitored and replaced when necessary.

References: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/sun.aspx>
<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/default.asp>

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch.5 Reg 1 (1.2)

- School Council also approves students wearing close fitting UV protection wrap around AS1067 sunglasses whenever they are outside.
- Whenever possible, outside activities on hot days will be scheduled before 11:00 am.
- Students and teachers will be required to wear hats at whole school sporting activities held in term 2 and 3 where students are outdoors for prolonged periods of time such as cross country, 5/6 interschool sport, district athletics etc.
- The school council will conduct regular shade audits and plan to provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable; particularly over high density play areas such as sand pits and play equipment.
- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the sunsmart message.
- The school will implement a Hot Day Timetable during lunch and Fruit snack when the temperature exceeds 37 degrees.
- Sunsmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

May 2017