

# Sun Protection Policy

## 1. PURPOSE

Our Sun Protection Policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending this school have some UV exposure for vitamin D, whilst being protected from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun. Sun protection is used from the beginning of September to the end of April.

## 2. AIMS

- a. To include Sun Smart activities and sun protection as part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels and also reinforced as part of the classroom program.
- b. To use the school newsletter, school assemblies and parent meetings to highlight and reinforce the Sun Protection policy.
- c. To ensure the number of trees and shelters within the school grounds provide sufficient shade areas.
- d. To educate students about Sun Smart protection strategies. This includes from September to the end of April, when the UV Index is 3 and above, especially between 10am to 2pm (11am to 3 pm during Daylight Saving).

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION

### Behaviour

- a. Require students and staff to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (broadbrim or bucket hats), for all outside activities, **from September to the end of April**.
- b. If students do not have appropriate broad-brimmed or bucket hats they are to stay in shaded areas away from the direct sun.
- c. Encourage parents to apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen before school, and staff to encourage students to do the same prior to recess and lunch. [20 minutes before going outdoors (where possible) and re-application after 2 hours
- d. The school will provide SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student use.
- e. Encourage students to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
- f. Encourage children and staff to wear close fitting sunglasses that cover as much eye area as possible. (They should meet Australian Standards).
- g. School uniform is cool, loose fitting and includes shirts with collars.
- h. Require staff and request parents to act as role models by practising Sun Smart behaviours.
- i. Support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

HVS has zero tolerance for any form of child abuse

- j. As part of OHS UV risk controls and role modelling, staff, families and visitors will also wear a sun protective hat, appropriate clothing and sunglasses (if practical); apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen; and seek shade whenever possible.

### **Curriculum**

- k. Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention and Sun Smart behaviours at all curriculum levels, with an emphasis from September to the end of April.
- l. Regularly reinforce and promote Sun Smart behaviour in a positive way through newsletters, school website, staff and parent meetings, and other student and teacher activities.
- m. Ensure the Sun Protection policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events. e.g. Camps, excursions, and sporting events.

### **Environment**

- n. Organised outdoor activities to be held in areas with plenty of shade.
- o. The School Council will make sure there are sufficient trees and shelters providing shade in outdoor spaces, particularly in high-use areas e.g. where students utilise for assemblies, sports, outdoor lessons and popular play spaces.

## **4. REFERENCES**

Sun Smart website <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/>

## **5. EVALUATION**

- a. Staff will review the effectiveness of this policy each year through a consultation process. This will include;
  - Reviewing the Sun Smart behaviour of students, staff, parents, and visitors and making recommendations for improvement.
  - Assessing shade provision and usage and making recommendations for increases in shade provision.
  - Updating and promoting curriculum material relevant to Sun Smart activities.
- b. This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four yearly review cycle

**This Policy was ratified in March 2018.**

**Date for next review: 2022**