

Portland Primary School

SUNSMART

POLICY

Rationale:

- A balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. 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.

Implementation:

Staff are encouraged to access the SunSmart UV Alert at sunsmart.com.au to find out daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

We use a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities from **September to the end of April** and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, the level that can damage skin and eyes.

- This policy is to be read as part of our Uniform Policy which includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming. .
- Children will be required to wear School Uniform Sunsmart hats that protect the face, neck and ears (not baseball style) whenever they are outside.
- Staff will act as role models by also wearing broad brimmed hats when outside.
- Children without school hats or covering clothing will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas.
- Children will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Sunscreen will be available at all times from the sick bay and on excursions. Sunscreen will be applied by students according to the manufacturer's directions, under the supervision of teachers. Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).

References: Exec Memo No 99/039,
Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria ph: 9635 5148

Vic Govt Schools Reference Guide - www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/referenceguide/pdf/4-5.pdf

- Children and staff will be encouraged to wear suitable UV – protective sunglasses labelled AS 1067.
- Whenever possible, outside activities on hot days should be scheduled before 11:00 am.
- The school council will provide adequate shade structures for students across all play areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- The School Council will ensure that school uniform hats are available for purchase from the office.
- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the sunsmart policy.
- Sunsmart activities and sun protection will form part of the curriculum at all year levels.
- Our school will maintain membership as a Sunsmart school with the Cancer Council Victoria.

Evaluation:

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

2012

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

August

Relevant Documents / Links

- DEECD School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV protection (2011)
- DEECD Health, Safety & Workcover
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) Occupational Health & Safety Guidelines
- Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) Compliance Framework
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 7.5.5 Shade Areas
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools -Government Response
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight (2008)

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