



# SUNSMART

## Policy



### **Purpose:**

- The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Footscray West Primary School (FWPS) that minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

### **Scope:**

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

### **Aims:**

- To encourage students and staff to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.
- To encourage and support students to develop independent sun protection skills.

### **Implementation:**

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

Sun safety is a shared responsibility and staff, parents and students are encouraged to implement a combination of sun protection measures.

### **Behaviour:**

- From the start of September until the end of April, students are required to wear school approved SunSmart hats (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket) to protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside (e.g. recess, lunch, sport, Phys Ed, excursions).
- Students without acceptable hats will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas.
- Students will be encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+) before recess and lunch breaks and all outdoor activities.
- Parents are encouraged to provide their child/ren with sunscreen that they can keep at school.
- The use of sunscreen is encouraged on excursions.
- Students will be encouraged to use available shade areas for outdoor activities.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to wear sunglasses that meet the Australian standard and cover as much of the eye area as possible.
- Staff & parents should act as role models by practicing SunSmart behaviours.
- Staff are required to wear sun protective hats.

### **Curriculum:**

- Awareness of skin cancer prevention will be incorporated at all grade levels.
- Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun smart behavior.
- SunSmart behaviours will be regularly reinforced in a positive way through newsletters, school website, school assemblies, etc.
- The SunSmart policy will be reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (eg camps, excursions, sporting events, annual outdoor school events).

### **Environment:**

- Outdoor activities will be held in areas with plenty of shade whenever possible.
- The Facilities Sub-Committee will continue to provide as much shade in the school grounds as possible.

### **Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed every three years.

This policy is in accordance with the recommendations as outlined by SunSmart Victoria [www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au) a subsidiary of Cancer Council Victoria.

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

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