

SUNSMART POLICY

*The Currajong School takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures and practices meet all **Child Safe Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 870 (2015)***

PURPOSE

This policy applies to all school events on and off-site and provides guidelines to:

- Ensure all students and staff have some UV exposure for vitamin D.
- Ensure all students and staff are well protected from too much UV exposure by using a combination of sun protection measures from mid-August to the end of April.
- 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.

BACKGROUND

An excess of exposure to the sun's UV rays can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

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

PROCEDURES

Staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au or on the free SunSmart app to assist with the implementation of this policy. A combination of sun protection measures are used for all outdoor activities from mid August to the end of April.

HEALTHY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Seek shade

- i. A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- ii. Ensure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate, such as outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- iii. The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities and excursions.
- iv. Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- v. Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- vi. Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing from mid-August until the end of April will not be permitted on the playground.

HEALTHY SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Slip on sun protective clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in our school dress code. Shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves are encouraged, as well as longer style shorts. Singlets and tank tops are not to be worn to school. We recommend that school clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric.

Slap on a hat

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears: legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats (with a minimum 6cm rim), whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

Slop on Sunscreen

The school supplies SPF30 or high broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use. Parents are welcome to provide personal sunscreen for their child if they so wish. We appreciate that some students have sensitivities to sunscreen, and ask parents to provide sunscreen suitable for their child's needs should the school supplied sunscreen be unsuitable.

Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors. We encourage daily application of sunscreen before leaving home for school.

Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices on classroom doors, sunscreen monitors).

Slide on sunglasses

Where practical students and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2,3 or 4) and cover as much as the eye area as possible.

LEARNING AND SKILLS

Programs on skin cancer prevention and vitamin D are included in the curriculum for all year levels. SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, parent meetings, staff meetings, assemblies and on student enrolment.

ENGAGING CHILDREN, EDUCATORS, STAFF AND FAMILIES

Staff and families are provided with information on sun protection and vitamin D through the school's newsletter and notice boards. As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, from mid-August to the end of April, staff, families and visitors are encouraged to: wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and if practical, sunglasses when outside; apply sunscreen; seek shade whenever possible.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The school council and staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy (at least once every three years) and revise the policy when required by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at sunsmart.com.au
- SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

The Currajong School is accredited by The Cancer Council Victoria as a 'SunSmart School'

Approval date	Approved by	Next Review
August 2020	School Board	August 2023