



POLICY: Sunsmart Policy

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe Our Lady of Lourdes School approach to Sun Safety of our Students.

This SunSmart policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

2. RATIONALE

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70.

With this in mind, Our Lady of Lourdes School realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Our school recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. The implementation of this policy will therefore be conducted throughout the year. The purpose of the SunSmart Procedures is to ensure that all children attending our school are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

4. PRINCIPLES

Our Lady of Lourdes School will:

Seek Shade

- Make sure there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas
- Ensure the availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- Encourage students to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Ensure students who do not have an appropriate school hat or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- In consultation with the school board, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.



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Slip on *sun protective clothing*

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our Student Dress Code. It includes shirts with collars and elbow-length sleeves, longer dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

Slap on a *sun protective hat*

- All students and staff wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (broad-brimmed or bucket hat), whenever they are outside. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

Slop on *sunscreen*

- Students provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).

Learning

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

OHS

- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors: wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and apply sunscreen; and seek shade whenever possible.

5. REFERENCES

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#): Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)
- DET School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) [Sun & UV protection](#) (2019)
- Victorian School Building Authority [Building Quality Standards Handbook](#) (BQSH): Section 5.1.4 Shade Areas (2018)
- DET [Outdoor activities](#) (2018)
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) [Your Child's Health Wellbeing and Safety](#) (Primary)
- Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) [Managing a school – Health & Safety Compliance Framework: OHS >Sun Protection](#)
- [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework \(VEYLDF\) \(May 2016\)](#)
- Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) [The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#) - Principle 3.2
- [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers](#) (APST) – Standard 4.4 and 7.2



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- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into [Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools –Final Report](#) (2007)
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)
- AS 4174:2018 Knitted and woven shade fabrics
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 2604:2012 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: [4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product](#)
- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation. *6.2.1: General considerations, 6.3.9: Shade and sun protection, Appendix A: Shade and sun protection*