SunSmart Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to support sun protection behaviours at Wangla Primary School to minimise risk of health problems from sun overexposure, including skin cancer.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV index levels are 3 or above (generally mid-August – end of April in Victoria)
- ensure that there are outdoor environments that provide adequate shade for students and staff
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection
- support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure and associated harm for students and staff.

Scope

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

Policy

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

UV radiation:

- cannot be seen or felt
- can be reflected off surfaces such as buildings, asphalt, concrete, water, sand and snow
- can pass through light clouds
- varies in intensity across the year (highest in Victoria from mid-August – end of April)
- peaks during school hours

Sun safety is a shared responsibility and staff, parents and students are encouraged to implement a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above (typically from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria). Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the free SunSmart app, at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

Wangala Primary School has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

Shade

Wangala Primary School will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- where students congregate for lunch
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Wangala Primary School that may impact on the level of shading available to staff and students, a review of the shaded areas available will be conducted and further shading installed as appropriate.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Wangala Primary School's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts

From September (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, all students must wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the September to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat, are required to stay in the 'stay and play' area located outside of the classroom kitchen, under the shade sail.

Sunscreen

Wangala Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours according to manufacturer's instructions. Wangala Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

At Wangala Primary School students are welcome to attend the administration office to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of

sunscreen are encouraged to contact administration to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

Sunglasses

Where practical Wangala Primary School encourages students and staff engaged in outdoor activities to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the effects of sun exposure and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school. Wangala Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of "Learning to Lean" program at the beginning of the year and a reminder in August.

Staff role-modelling and OHS

Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun smart behaviour across the school community.

Engaging students, staff and families

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:

- wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
- apply sunscreen; and
- seek shade whenever possible.

UV radiation exposure is considered as part of our schools risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities on and off-site e.g. UV radiation protection strategies (hats, clothing, shade, sunscreen) are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sporting events.

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.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Wangala Primary School may provide families and staff with information through Compass notification newsletters, noticeboards, school website, school assemblies.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

Further Information and Resources

- the Department's Policy Advisory Library:
- Sun and UV Protection Policy
- Heat Health
- Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors
- Risk Management – Schools
- Shade Sails
- Student Dress Code

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	26th August 2024
Consultation	Approval by School Council
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	DATE: August 2028 - noting that the recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years