

# Wantirna South Primary School

## SunSmart Policy

### *Rationale*

Wantirna South Primary School acknowledges that too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. The school is aware that UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Wantirna South Primary School has a duty of care to the health and safety of all community members and abides by the Department of Health guidelines and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) guides to encourage a safe environment for outdoor experiences.

### *Expectations*

Based on this rationale the aims of this policy are to:

- ensure all community members, especially students, are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for children, educators and staff;
- support duty of care and appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for educators, staff and visitors.

### *Implementation*

Consistent with these expectations this policy shall be implemented according to the following guidelines:

1. Seek shade:
  - Council will ensure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the outdoor area particularly in high-use areas.
  - Staff will consider the availability of shade when planning all outdoor activities.
  - Children are encouraged to choose and use available areas of shade when outside.
  - Children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play under the canteen covered space and protected from the sun.
  - A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
2. Slip on sun-protective clothing:
  - Children are required to wear the school uniform that is loose-fitting and covers as much skin as possible.
  - The uniform is made from cool, densely woven fabric is recommended. Families are asked to choose tops with elbow-length sleeves, higher necklines (or collars) and longer style shorts and skirts for their child.
3. Slap on a hat:
  - All children are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket style).
  - Hats can be worn all year for added protection from the sun, however must be worn from mid-August to end of April.
  - Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.
4. Slop on sunscreen:
  - SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen can be supplied by families for children to apply.

5. Slide on sunglasses:

- Where practical, children will be allowed 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. Sunglasses will be supplied by families and be the responsibility of the child.

6. Learning and skills:

- Sun protection is incorporated into the learning and development program.
- The SunSmart policy is reinforced by educators and through children's activities and displays.

7. Engaging children, educators, staff and families:

- Educators, staff and families are provided with information about sun protection through family newsletters, service handbook, noticeboards and the service's website.
- When enrolling their child, families are informed of the service's SunSmart policy; asked to provide a suitable sun protective hat, covering clothing and sunscreen for their child; and encouraged to use SunSmart measures themselves when at the service.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, educators, staff and visitors wear a suitable sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses; apply sunscreen; and seek shade whenever possible.

### ***Other Policies***

This Policy has been developed in accordance with the Department of Education's Professional Development Advisory Guide.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/profdev/Pages/default.aspx>

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

ARPANSA Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006)

Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers (2016)

### ***Evaluation***

This Policy will be reviewed as part of a three year cycle or as directed by School Council.

Review date: May 2022

This Policy was ratified by School Council.