



St Patrick's Primary School, Pyramid Hill

Sunsmart Policy

Rationale:

Students and staff attending our school have a healthy UV exposure balance to help with vitamin D and are protected to the best of our ability from skin and eye damage and skin cancer risk caused by the harmful overexposure to ultraviolet rays of the sun. The policy is to be implemented from the start of September until the end of April, when UV radiation is most intense.

Aim:

We are committed to being a Sunsmart school.

We aim to...

- To encourage some sun exposure for vitamin D and protect children from overexposure to the sun's harmful rays
- To educate children about the potential benefits and dangers of the sun's exposure

Implementation:

- A combination of sun protection measures are used for all outdoor activities from **September to the end of April** and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.
- Students are required to wear the school broad brim or bucket hat which protects the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities from September to the end of April **NO HAT NO PLAY** including Physical Education program.
- Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.
- SunSmart strategies are to be explicitly taught within the Health and Physical Education program.
- Students are strongly encouraged to provide and use their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum sunscreen prior to recess, lunch breaks and sporting activities.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
- School will provide SPF 30+ for children in the event that they have not pre-applied.
- The school makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities and excursions.
- Encourage children to play in shaded areas from September to the end of April and in extreme heat.
- Call indoor play on extreme heat days of 37 degrees or more.
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Assessment & Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed annually and earlier should a need arise to do so.

Resources:

<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-primary-schools>

Legislation and Standards

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

Relevant documents / links

- The Compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian government school education: Principle 3 (2012)
- DEECD School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV protection (2011)
- DEECD Health, Safety & Workcover
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) Occupational Health & Safety Guidelines
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas (Oct 2011)
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools -Government Response
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight (2008)
- AS 4685.1: 2014 Playground equipment and surfacing – General safety requirements and test methods