

RATIONALE

Too much UV from the sun can cause sunburn, skin damage, eye damage and skin cancer. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Accumulated UV damage during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

Sun protection is needed whenever UV levels reach three and above. In Victoria UV levels regularly reach three and above from mid-August to the end of April.

AIMS

In accordance with the guidelines of Sun Smart Schools, Cancer Council of Victoria and Vic Health, at Barton Primary School we aim to:

- Ensure all students and staff are well protected from too much UV exposure by using a combination of sun protection measures during the daily local sun protection times (issued whenever UV levels are 3 and above)
- 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 to help them be responsible for their own sun protection
- Support duty of care requirements
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's Sunsmart policy
- Support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors

IMPLEMENTATION

Staff are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy, which will be available via the Daily Bulletin, via the SunSmart widget on the school website, the free SunSmart app, or at www.sunsmart.com.au.

From mid-August to the end of April in Victoria UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher.

When UV levels reach 3 and above.

- Students and staff use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.
- Our SunSmart policy is considered when planning all outdoor events e.g. assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events. Where possible, outdoor activities/events will be scheduled to minimise time in direct sun e.g. earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Shaded and indoor venues will be considered.

1. Shade

- The School Council, in consultation with our partner Spotless, 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

- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds
- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun

2. Clothing

- Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. School clothing is made of close weave fabric and includes shirts with collars and longer sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts. Rash vests and/or t-shirts are recommended for outdoor swimming. (Please note: Singlet tops do not offer enough protection and are therefore not recommended.)

3. Hats

- Students and staff are encouraged to wear hats, whilst outside, that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. broad brimmed or bucket hats (as per the Uniform Policy), whenever they are outside during the period of mid-August - April. (Baseball caps or visors do not offer enough protection and are therefore not recommended.)
- Students wearing cultural headwear will still be encouraged to wear the appropriate school hat as outlined in the Uniform Policy, however if cultural beliefs conflict with this, a suitable alternative will be negotiated with the family.

4. Sunglasses

- Students and staff are encouraged 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.

5. Sunscreen

- SPF 30+ (or higher) broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is encouraged to be used by staff and student's [supplied by families]
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and students are encouraged to apply sunscreen at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours if outdoors
- Students are reminded to apply sunscreen before going outdoors
- With parental consent, students with naturally very dark skin (skin that rarely or never burns) are not required to wear sunscreen.

Staff OHS and Role modelling

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

- Wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- Apply SPF 30+ (or higher) broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- Seek shade whenever possible

- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

Curriculum

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and on student enrolment.

EVALUATION

This policy was ratified by School Council on 26th April 2018



- This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

5. References

1. School Policy and Advisory Guide: Sun and UV Protection
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/sun.aspx>
2. Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
3. Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 7.5.5 Shade Areas
4. Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 Sections 21 and 23: Main Duties of Employers Section 25: Duties of Employees www.worksafe.vic.gov.au
5. Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006 ARPANSA Radiation Protection Series No. 12
<http://www.arpansa.gov.au/publications/codes/rps12.cfm>
6. Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight
<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/system/files/documents/1702/guide-exposure-solar-ultraviolet-radiation.pdf>
7. SunSmart <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/>
8. SunSmart resources: <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-primary-schools/resources-primary-early-childhood/curriculum-resources>
9. UV and vitamin D: [sunsmart.com.au/vitamin_d](http://www.sunsmart.com.au/vitamin_d)

