



GROVEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL SUNSMART POLICY

Rationale:

- It is recognised that some UV exposure helps with vitamin D and accumulated sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a risk factor for skin cancer in later life. We believe it is important to comply with Sunsmart guidelines and Cancer Council Victoria criteria to ensure students and staff are protected from sun damage caused by overexposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

Aims:

- To ensure that all students and staff attending the school have some UV exposure for vitamin D and are protected from potential sun damage by engaging in sun safe practices

Implementation:

- Staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au or on the free SunSmart app to assist with the implementation of this policy.
- A combination of sun protection measures are used for all outdoor activities from **mid-August to the end of April** and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.
- Sun protective clothing items are provided as part of the school uniform includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.
- Students and staff are required to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats that protect the face, neck and ears outside during school hours from September to the end of April each year.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role modelling staff will also wear broad brimmed hats and follow other sun protection measures when outside.
- Students without broad brimmed hats or covering clothing will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas.
- Parents are encouraged to apply SPF30+ or higher broad spectrum sunscreen before school and provide it for their child to use prior to the lunch break.
- 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).
- The school grounds are to include a number of areas of shade, including both active and passive areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities and excursions.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- The school Health program in all classes will include teaching and learning activities on being Sunsmart each year.
- The sun protection policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events.
- Sunsmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, assemblies etc.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually.

- The school's compliance with SunSmart practices will be reviewed by the Cancer Council Victoria SunSmart Program at least once every three years.

Legislation 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 (2102)
- DEt School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV protection (2016)
- DEECD Health, Safety & Workcover.
- 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 - Sun Protection for outdoor workers (2016)
- Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: 4 Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product.
- AS 4685.1:2014 Playground equipment and surfacing- General safety requirements and test methods

This policy was ratified by School Council in October 2017