

# GROVEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SUNSMART POLICY

### Rationale:

- It is recognised that a healthy UV exposure helps with vitamin D and extreme 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 some sun exposure for vitamin D and protection 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](http://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 **September 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).
- With parental consent, students with naturally dark skin are not required to wear sunscreen to help with vitamin D requirements.
- 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)
- DEECD School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV protection (2011)
- 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 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

This policy was ratified by School Council in