



Elwood Primary School No 3942

Scott Street Elwood 3184 Telephone 9531 2762 Fax 9531 5497

Sun Smart

PURPOSE

1. To educate and guide parents, students and school staff in the adoption of sensible and consistent protection procedures.
2. To assist in the development of lifelong habits of skin protection and to assist students to be increasingly responsible for their own sun protection.
3. Ensure all students and staff are well protected from too much UV exposure by using a combination of sun protection measures.
4. Ensure the outdoor environment is sun safe and provides shade for students and staff.
5. Ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills.
6. Support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors

BROAD GUIDELINES

1. Sun protection is used from September to the end of April.
2. The program is designed to reduce the risk of skin cancer, by limiting exposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation.
3. Protecting students from exposure to ultraviolet radiation during school hours is the joint responsibility of students, parents/ guardians and school staff.
4. Programs to develop student awareness of the risks of overexposure to UV and the need to maintain appropriate Vitamin D levels are included in the Health curriculum.

IMPLEMENTATION

Healthy physical environment

1. *Seek* shade

- The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities and excursions.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- 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.

Healthy social environment

2. *Slip* on sun protective clothing

- Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code. 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. Rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming are mandatory except when students are actually competing in an event.

3. *Slap* on a hat

1. **All** students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.
2. Students are responsible for looking after their hats at school.
3. Students not wearing hats during recess, lunchtime and sport are required to be in a designated shade area.

4. *Slop* on sunscreen

- Parents are responsible for providing their child's own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. This is included on the school's booklist each year.

- Sunscreen is applied at least 15 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors by the students.
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- Students who have not applied sunscreen are reminded that they should play in a designated shade area.

5. Slide on sunglasses [if practical]

- Where practical 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.

Learning and skills

- Programs on skin cancer prevention 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.

Engaging children, educators, staff and families

- Staff and families are provided with information on sun protection through family newsletters, noticeboards and the school’s website.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, between April and September staff, families and visitors:
 - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses when outside
 - apply sunscreen
 - seek shade whenever possible

Monitoring and review

- The school council and staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy (at least once every three years) and revise the policy when required by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at sunsmart.com.au.
- SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

RESOURCES

1. Sun Smart Resources- Anti Cancer Council: www.sunsmart.com.au
2. Cancer Council and VIC Health Sample Sunsmart Policy for schools: sunsmart.com.au
3. DET School Policy & Advisory Guide - Sun & UV protection:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/sun.aspx>
4. SunSmart’s UV Alert states the daily sun protection times. This is available on the free SunSmart app, in the weather section of the Herald Sun newspaper and at www.sunsmart.com.au.

Policy History

Version Approval Date:	Summary of changes:	Next Review:
May 2011	Amendments made, council approved	3 year cycle or as needed
July 2015	Reviewed and amendments made sub committee and parents	3 year cycle or as needed