



TATE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This policy applies to all school events on and off site.

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

AIMS:

This SunSmart Policy has been developed to:

- Ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV.
- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above, generally between mid-August to the end of April.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times.
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's SunSmart policy.

IMPLEMENTATION:

We use a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities throughout the school year. Broad brimmed hats must be worn from mid-August until the end of April, when UV levels typically reach 3 or above and damage to skin and eyes can occur.

A nominated staff member will access the daily local sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au to assist with the implementation of this policy.

The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.

Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels and SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, the school website, and the Facebook page.

a) Shade

- a shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- the school council 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 excursions and all other outdoor activities.

- 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.

b) Clothing

- Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and longer sleeves and longer style dresses.

c) Hats

- **From mid-August until the end of April, all** students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. broad brimmed, whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not considered a suitable alternative. All students and staff must have access to a hat at school or for out-of-school activities during these months when the UV level typically reaches above 3.

d) Sunglasses [OPTIONAL]

- 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.

e) Sunscreen

- Students must provide their own SPF 30+ (or higher) broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. Parents/carers should ensure that sunscreen is applied to students according to manufacturer's directions prior to attending school. Strategies (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies) are in place to remind students to re-apply sunscreen in accordance with the manufacturer's directions before going outdoors during school hours.

Staff OHS and Role Modelling

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, when the UV level is 3 and above 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.

EVALUATION:

The effectiveness of this policy and membership renewal with SunSmart at sunsmart.com.au will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle. SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors.

References: Legislation and Standards

[Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)

[Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#): Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

DET School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) [Sun & UV protection](#) (2016) [ARPANSA Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation \(2006\)](#)

- [Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers \(2016\)](#)
- [AS 4174:2018 Knitted and woven shade fabrics](#)
- [AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles](#)
- [AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification](#)
- [AS/NZS 2604:2012 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification](#)
- [Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration \(TGA\) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: 4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product](#)

- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.6.2.1: General considerations, 6.3.9: Shade and sun protection, Appendix A: Shade and sun protection

Ratified at School Council Meeting held20/3/2019

Next policy review:


Ratified by School Council
20/3/2019