
RATIONALE

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. It is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practising sun protection in early childhood and adolescence.

This SunSmart policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending **Kyabram P-12 College** are protected from over-exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. This policy documents our sun protection practices in the areas of behaviour, curriculum and environment. These practices will be applied to all school activities including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. It is to be implemented whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above. In Victoria, average UV Index levels are 3 and above from the beginning of September until the end of April.

OBJECTIVES

The goals of the SunSmart Policy are to:

- a) Increase student and community awareness of skin cancer.
- b) Assist students to develop strategies which encourage responsible decision making about skin protection.
- c) Work towards a safe school environment which provides shade for students and staff.
- d) Encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high risk times such as lunch times, sports, excursions and camps.
- e) Ensure that parents are informed of the school's SunSmart policy.

IMPLEMENTATION

Behaviour

Insist all students and staff to wear sun protective hats that shade the face, neck and ears during recess, lunch time and during sporting and other high risk activities; and apply at least SPF 15 broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen before all outdoor activity and re-apply every two hours. Encourage all staff and students to wear clothing with sleeves and collars that are made from a closely woven fibre and to use shade areas in the school grounds.

Rewards system for positive SunSmart behaviour including wearing SunSmart hats.

School Organisation

- *School Uniform*

Include a wide brimmed hat as a necessary clothing item for outdoor activities.

Assemblies

Outdoor assemblies to be held early morning or in shade where possible.

- **Physical Education and Sport Education**
All students to be protected from the sun during outdoor physical education and sport classes. Maximise the use of indoor and shade facilities. Consider scheduling lessons outside of the high risk UV times of 11am-3pm (during daylight savings time), 10am and 2pm at other times.
- **Camps and Excursions**
Suitable hats, clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen should be required for all camps and excursions. These items should be listed on the parent permission form.
- **Adult role models**
Appropriate behaviour should be modelled by teachers and parents to reinforce the policy.
- **Occupational Health and Safety**
Consideration should be given to sun protection for all teachers involved in outdoor activities including yard duty. Physical education and sport education teachers should be encouraged to take appropriate sun protection measures as they are particularly at risk from UV radiation.

Curriculum

- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer prevention programs into the appropriate Domains of the school curriculum.
- Encourage students to be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.
- Promote sun protection throughout the year via the school newsletter, assemblies, daily messages, parent and staff meetings and whole school activities.

Environment

- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff.
- Working towards scheduling sports carnivals to minimise UV risks by holding them indoors or outside the peak UV period between 10am and 2pm 11am and 3pm daylight savings time.
- Consider temporary shade structures as a short term measure.
- Plan and budget for shade for high risk areas such as canteens and assembly points.
-

This policy will be monitored by the SunSmart Policy Committee who will ensure:

- All new staff have been briefed on the SunSmart Policy.
- The SunSmart Policy is included as an agenda item for the first January and September staff meetings of each year.
- The SunSmart Policy is presented at the first School Council meeting and Parents' Club meeting each year.
- The SunSmart Policy is included in the school handbook/school diary each year.
- Sunscreen is provided on the school grounds.

- SunSmart practices are promoted regularly from September through to May.
- The Cancer Council Victoria is contacted annually to ensure that up-to-date information is maintained on SunSmart resources and policy guidelines.

EVALUATION

The Curriculum Committee in collaboration with the Student Representative Council will review the effectiveness of this policy each year. They will:

1. Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents and guests visiting the school.
 2. Assess the provision of shade in the school.
 3. Assess the use of shade by students and staff.
 4. Check plans for future buildings and grounds with regards to shade provision (in consultation with the School Council)
 5. Evaluate and update the SunSmart protection and skin cancer prevention component of the curriculum (in collaboration with the health and physical education staff).
-

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Environment Sub-Committee and the Policy and Review Sub-Committee for endorsement by School Council.

RATIFIED BY COLLEGE COUNCIL

Date: 15/07/2018

School Council President

Review Date July 2021