



**SCHOOL NO. 1727 KIALLA WEST**

Policy Statement: ENVIRONMENT

676 - SUN SMART

Responsibility: Principal, Staff and School Council.

This Policy was last ratified by School Council in 2015.

1. **PURPOSE:**

A healthy balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels.

Our SunSmart Policy has been developed to ensure that all children attending Kialla West Primary School are offered protection from the potential damage caused by the ultra-violet rays of the sun. (It is to be implemented throughout the year with a combination of sun protection measures used from September to April).

2. **GUIDELINES:**

Staff are encouraged to access the daily SunSmart UV Alert at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) (or on their own school website) to find out daily sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

**From September 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> in Victoria**

When average UV Index levels reach 3 and above, a combination of sun protection measures are used whenever outdoors including:

**A. Behaviour**

- 2.1 Children will wear a wide brimmed hat that protects the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside (eg. recess, lunch, sport or excursions).
- 2.2 Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and longer sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.
- 2.3 Children without wide brimmed hats or covering clothing will be confined to designated shaded areas.
- 2.4 Through Parent Payments and Parents and Carers our school will provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student use whenever required.
- 2.5 Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
- 2.6 Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities,
- 2.7 Staff and Parents are encouraged to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviours such as wearing Sunsmart hats.

## **B. Curriculum**

- 2.8 Skin cancer prevention and vitamin D programs will be incorporated into the curriculum throughout the school.
- 2.9 SunSmart behaviour will be regularly reinforced in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.

## **C. Environment**

- 2.10 Outdoor activities will be scheduled before 11.00 am on hot days.
- 2.11 Activities taken outdoors will be held in areas of shade whenever possible.
- 2.12 We shall work towards increasing the number of sheltered areas and trees so as to provide adequate shade in the school grounds.
- 2.13 The Principal in consultation with School Council may vary this Policy if circumstances require it. These changes will be sent to SunSmart to maintain SunSmart membership.

### **Staff OHS and Role modelling**

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

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible

### **From May to August in Victoria**

When average UV Index levels are below 3, sun protection measures are not used from May until August unless in alpine regions, near highly reflective surfaces such as snow or outside for extended periods.

### **Relevant Documents / Links**

1. Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide: 4.5.11 Skin protection
2. Building Quality Standards Handbook: Section 7.5.5 Shade Areas
3. Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools -Government Response  
[www.parliament.vic.gov.au/etc/fs\\_previous.html](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/etc/fs_previous.html)
4. Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
5. Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006) ARPANSA Radiation Protection Series No. 12  
<http://www.arpansa.gov.au/publications/codes/rps12.cfm>
6. Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight
7. SunSmart [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au)
8. SunSmart UV Alert (issued whenever the UV Index reaches 3 and above) [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [www.bom.gov.au/weather/uv/](http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/uv/)