



Templestowe Heights
Primary School

SUNSMART POLICY

RATIONALE

Too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer. Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. This policy is to be implemented throughout the year but particularly when UV Index levels reach 3 and above. In Victoria, average UV Index levels are 3 and above from the beginning of September to the end of April.

AIMS

- Increase student and community awareness about skin cancer and sun protection.
- To encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above.
- Work toward a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community.
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- Ensure that new families are informed of the school's SunSmart policy.

GUIDELINES

1. Children will be required to wear school approved sun protective hats between 1st September and 1st May, whenever they are outside.
2. Clothing that covers as much skin as possible is provided as part of the school uniform/dress code. Singlet and midriff tops are not acceptable.
3. Staff will act as role models by also wearing hats and appropriate clothing when outside.
4. Children without hats will be required to play in a designated shade area.
5. Children will be actively encouraged to bring and to apply a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Provision of sunscreen will remain the responsibility of parents.
6. The wearing of sunglasses by children in the playground is acceptable.

7. Whenever possible outside activities, during Term 1 and Term 4, should be scheduled before 11.00am.
8. The SunSmart policy will be reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (eg. camps, excursions, sporting events) between, 1st September and 1st May. Permission notes for excursions will include SunSmart reminders.
9. The SunSmart policy will be regularly reinforced in the school newsletter, at assemblies and through student and teacher activities.
10. Shade provision will be a consideration in all future buildings and grounds development.
11. SunSmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health & Physical Education Program at all levels of the school.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's policy review cycle.

This Policy Was Ratified By School Council in March, 2015