

SUNSMART POLICY

*The Currajong School takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures, and practices meet all **Child Safe Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 870 (2015)***

PURPOSE

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

This SunSmart Policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff have some UV exposure for vitamin D.
- ensure all students and staff are well protected from too much UV exposure by using a combination of sun protection measures from mid-August to the end of April.
- ensure the outdoor environment is sun safe and provides shade for students and staff.
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills.
- support duty of care requirements.
- support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

BACKGROUND

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 associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Education and Training Reforms Act 2006: Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

PROCEDURES

- Staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au or on the free SunSmart app to assist with the implementation of this policy.
- a combination of sun protection measures are used for all outdoor activities from mid-August to the end of April.

HEALTHY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. **Seek shade**

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The Principal 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. outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities and excursions.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing from mid-August until April 30 will not be permitted on the playground.

HEALTHY SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

2. **Slip on sun protective clothing**

- Sun protective clothing is included in our school dress code. Shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves are encouraged, as well as longer style shorts. Singlets and tank tops are not to be worn to school. We recommend that school clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric.

3. **Slap on a hat**

- All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats (with a minimum 6cm rim), whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

4. **Slop on Sunscreen**

- The school supplies SPF30 or high broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students use. Parents/carers are welcome to provide personal sunscreen for their child if they so wish. We appreciate that some students on the Autism Spectrum have sensitivities to sunscreen, and ask parents to provide sunscreen suitable for their child's needs should the school supplied sunscreen be unsuitable.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors. We encourage daily application of sunscreen before leaving home for school.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices on classroom doors, sunscreen monitors).

5. Slide on sunglasses

- Where practical students and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2,3 or 4) and cover as much as the eye area as possible.

LEARNING AND SKILLS

- Programs on skin cancer prevention and vitamin D are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies and on student enrolment.

ENGAGING CHILDREN, EDUCATORS, STAFF AND FAMILIES

- Staff and families are provided with information on sun protection and vitamin D through the school's newsletter and notice boards.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, from mid-August to the end of April, staff, families and visitors are encouraged to:
 - ✦ wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and if practical, sunglasses when outside.
 - ✦ apply sunscreen
 - ✦ seek shade whenever possible

The Currajong School has accreditation from The Cancer Council Victoria as a 'SunSmart School'

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as per our three-year review cycle or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next review:
October 2021	School Board	October 2024



The Currajong School acknowledges the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to the Elders past, present and emerging.