



## SUNSMART AND EXTREME HEAT POLICY

November 2017

### PURPOSE

This policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure that all students attending Clifton Hill Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
- ensure that all students are protected from health risks associated with being exposed to high temperatures.
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection
- support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors
- support duty of care requirements

### BACKGROUND

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

### LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#) Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

### IMPLEMENTATION

Children and staff use a combination of skin protection measures when UV levels are high. Particular care is taken between 10am and 3pm when UV levels reach their peak during the day. The following SunSmart strategies will be implemented:

- Students will be required to wear hats with a brim, or legionnaire hats from the beginning of September to the end of April, whenever they are outside classrooms
- Students are expected to wear suitable clothing such as tops that cover shoulders, shorts/skirts that reach below mid-thigh
- Appropriate areas of shade will be provided in the playground and students will be encouraged to utilise these areas when playing outdoors or when engaged in school lessons outdoors
- Parents will be encouraged to provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen for their child's personal use.
- Staff will model SunSmart behaviours to students
- Students who are not wearing approved hats and/or clothing will be directed to remain in a designated shaded area of the playground during recess and lunch times
- Students who do not have the approved hat and/or clothing will be unable to participate in outdoor activities, excursions and camps
- Upon receipt of a written parental request, students with certain diagnosed medical conditions, such as allergies or Vitamin D deficiencies, may be exempt from the requirements in this policy. In circumstances of very high temperatures, all students will be required to wear a hat.
- In hot weather students will be encouraged to remain hydrated in the yard and in their classrooms.

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- In the event of the Principal determining that the temperature at school has exceeded/will exceed 36 degrees students will be supervised in classrooms during recess and lunch breaks and teachers will proactively seek to provide regular additional breaks for students to access their water bottles and drinking taps.
- Staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times\* via the free SunSmart app, or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [myuv.com.au](http://myuv.com.au).

\* The sun protection times from the Bureau of Meteorology tell you 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.

### COMMUNICATION

This policy will also be published and reinforced through school website and enrolment information.

### RELEVANT DOCUMENTS / LINKS

- DET School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) [DET Sun and UV](#) (2016)
- DET [The Compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian government school education](#): Principle 3 (2012)
- DET [OHSMS Implementation Guide](#) (2009)
- DET [Building Quality Standards Handbook \(BQSH\)](#): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas
- DET [Guidelines for School Playgrounds –Playground safety management](#): Section 3.2.5 (2012)
- DET [Outdoor activities](#)

**REVIEW:** 2020