

SUNSMART POLICY



Date: 2016

Movelles School Values:

Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Compassion

Our vision at Movelles Primary School is to empower our students to become successful life-long learners. We will prepare our students to contend with the complexities of an ever changing world, in which creativity, adaptability, teamwork and connectedness to our community and the world are key features. Our school community will practise the core values of *responsibility, respect, resilience and compassion* for all.

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 this school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful 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 the end of April.

Goals:

- Reduce incidence of skin damage occurring to children at school.
- Foster a belief that skin damage is predictable and preventable.
- Involvement of School Council, teachers, parents and students in developing an awareness and participation in Sunsmart practices.
- Encourage changes to the environment and organisation which can influence behaviour and prevent sun damage.
- Staff are encouraged to access the daily SunSmart UV Alert at sunsmart.com to find out the daily sun protection measures whenever outdoors to assist with the implementation of this policy.

Implementation:

From September to April in Victoria, when average UV Index levels reach 3 and above, a combination of sun protection measures are used whenever outdoors including:

Behaviour

- Encourage children to wear hats which protect the face, neck and ears (e.g. wide brimmed or bucket hats) whenever they are outside (eg. recess, lunch, sport, excursions).
- 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.
- Children without appropriate hats or covering clothing will only be allowed to play in shaded areas.
- Work with the parent community to provide 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for student use whenever possible.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if necessary.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
- Encourage children to use available areas of shade during outdoor activities.
- Encourage staff and parents to act as role models by practising Sunsmart behaviours.
- Encourage use of Australian Standard (1067) wrap -around sunglasses.
- Our Sunsmart Policy applies to all school events on and off site.
- Our OSHC will abide by Movelle's Sunsmart Policy.

Curriculum

- Conduct curriculum activities that will contribute to the safety education of children in line with the Human Development, Human Relations and Safety areas of the Curriculum Standards Framework Key Learning Area – Health and Physical Education.
- Regularly reinforce Sunsmart behaviour in positive ways through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.

Environment

- Organise outdoor activities to be held in areas of shade in the school grounds.
- The school continues to provide adequate shaded areas through increasing the number of trees in the playground.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.

Staff OHS and Role modelling

- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role – modelling, when the UV is 3 and above
Staff:
- Wear protective sun hats, clothing and sunglasses 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

Evaluation:

- Regular Sunsmart audits.
- Increase in the number of children who practice appropriate skills at all times.

Relevant Documents /Links

- Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide: 4.5.11 Skin Protection
- Victorian Early Years Learning and development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Building Quality standards Handbook(BQSH): Section 7.5.5.Shade Areas
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry Into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools- Government Response

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 Sections 21 and 23: Main Duties of Employers Section 25: Duties of Employers
 - Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006) ARPANSA Radiation Protection Series No. 12
 - Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight.

Date Implemented:	2006
Approved by School Council	
School Council President signature & date	
Date reviewed	2014
Responsible for Review	Assistant Principal
Review Date	February 2017
References	Victorian Government Schools Policy Advisory Guide