



SunSmart Policy

Rationale

- Too much ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can cause sunburn, skin damage, eye damage and skin cancer.
- Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. Overexposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is known to be a major cause of skin cancer.
- Our sun protection policy is followed from the beginning of Term 4 until the end of Term 1 and whenever the UV Index level reaches 3 and above.

Aims

- To increase student and whole-school awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by exposure to UV radiation
- To work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for the entire school community
- To encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- To ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's sun protection policy.

Implementation

Strategies 1–4 (clothing, sunscreen, scheduling, role modeling) will be from the beginning of Term 4 until the end of Term 1, as this is when UV Index levels are high enough (3 and above) to damage the skin and lead to skin cancer. Strategies 5–7 shade, curriculum, professional development for staff are ongoing and will therefore apply throughout the year.

1. Clothing

- Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform/dress code and PE/sports uniform in the following ways.
- The summer uniform/dress code includes a shirt with at least elbow length sleeves and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone. The summer uniform/dress code includes longer style dresses, shorts/ pants at least to the knee.
- The PE/sport uniform/dress code includes a shirt that covers the shoulders well and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone.
- Students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (i.e. broad brimmed or bucket hats), whenever they are participating in activities outside. A broad brimmed or bucket hat is a compulsory part of the PE /Sport uniform and must be worn. Staff on Yard duty may elect to use a parasol for protection instead of wearing a hat.

- The PE/sport uniform includes longer style shorts/ pants at least to the mid-thigh.
- Students and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standards

2. Sunscreen

- SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is available for staff and students' use and students are encouraged to bring their own sunscreen to school.
- Staff encourage students to use sunscreen and provide time for students to apply sunscreen before going outside. Sunscreen will be available in every staffroom for staff to access and carry whilst on Yard duty to offer to students.
- The school community is educated about the correct use of sunscreen and the level of protection it provides.

3. Scheduling

- This policy is considered in the planning of all outdoor events such as assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events.
- Where possible, outdoor activities/ events will be scheduled earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon, or indoor venues will be considered.

4. Role Modelling

- Staff are encouraged to act as role models by using a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats (or parasol), sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when outside, especially when on Yard duty.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

5. Shade

- The school council/board ensures shade is available in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate – for example, lunch areas, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.
- The school council/board ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Processes for the planning of outdoor activities and excursions include the consideration of shade. Students are encouraged to use shade when outside particularly if they are not wearing appropriate hats or clothing.

6. Curriculum

- Sun protection and educational programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the secondary school curriculum.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- Sun protective behavior is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through a variety of channels such as newsletters, staff meetings and school assemblies.

7. Professional development for staff

- Sun protection is included in staff training to enable staff to work safely outdoors and to encourage them to be positive role models.
- Sun protection information is included in staff booklets. New staff are given a copy of this policy.

8. Secondary School sun protection program membership

- **In complying with the above policy Mordialloc College will have membership in the: Secondary School sun protection program.**

Evaluation

- The school council, staff and SRC regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the sun protection policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.
- Next policy review.
- The Principal Class will be responsible for reviewing policy.

Victorian government schools are child safe environments. Our school actively promotes the safety and wellbeing of all students and all of our school staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm in the school environment in accordance with their legal obligations including the Child Safe Standards. The school's Child Safe policy and Code of Conduct are available on the school's website.

Review Cycle

This policy was last reviewed in **August 2017** and is scheduled for review in **August 2020**.