

UV POLICY



Williamstown High School

Updated in 2017

UV Policy

1. Rationale

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70. Melanoma is the most common cancer in young Australians aged 13-24 years. Yet skin cancer is largely preventable and the use of sun protection measures at appropriate times of the year can help to reduce staff and students' future skin cancer risk. The sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the major cause of skin cancer and the best natural source of vitamin D, which is needed for strong bones and overall health. In Victoria, it is important to take a balanced UV approach. This UV Policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending Williamstown High School are protected from over-exposure to the harmful UV radiation from the sun. It documents our comprehensive sun and UV protection practices. These practices will be applied to all school activities including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. The policy is to be implemented throughout the year but with a strong emphasis on Terms 1 and 4.

2. Purpose

The purpose of our UV policy is to increase student, whole-school and community awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by exposure to UV radiation, develop strategies that encourage responsible decision-making about skin protection, work towards a safe school environment that provides effective sun protective measures and ensure that our school community is informed of the school's UV Policy.

3. Implementation

- UV protection and skin cancer awareness programs are incorporated into the Physical Education and Home Group curriculum programs.
- Implementation strategies: Clothing, Sunscreen, Scheduling, Role Modelling will be implemented from the beginning of September until the end of April, as this is when UV index levels are high enough (3 and above) to damage the skin and lead to skin cancer.
- Implementation strategies Shade, Curriculum, Staff OH&S are ongoing and will therefore be implemented at various times throughout the year.
- UV levels to be displayed on TV screens through the school and reminders to students to apply sunscreen.

4. Specific procedures

Role Modelling

- Staff are encouraged to act as role models by using a combination of UV protection measures (clothing, hats, sunscreen, good UV protection sunglasses, shade) when outside.
- Families and visitor are encouraged to use a combination of UV protection measures (clothing, hats, sunscreen, good UV protection sunglasses, shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

Shade

- Ensure shade is available in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate, for example, lunch areas, canteen, and outdoor lesson areas.
- Ensure 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.

Curriculum

- UV protection and education programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the secondary school curriculum.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model UV protection measures to the whole school community.
- UV protective behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through a variety of channels such as newsletters and parent information nights.

Uniform/clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform/dress code and sports uniform in the following ways:

- The summer uniform/dress code includes a shirt with a collar that sits close to the neck and above the collarbone.
- The summer uniform/dress code includes longer style skirts/shorts/pants to at least just above the knee.
- The sport uniform/dress code includes a shirt with a collar that sits close to the neck and above the collarbone.
- The sport uniform/dress code includes longer style skirts/shorts/pants to at least just above the knee.
- Students and staff are encouraged to wear hats that protect their face and neck whenever they are outside.

Sunscreen

- SPF50+ 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.
- The school community is educated about the correct use of sunscreen and the level of protection it provides.

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.

Staff OH&S

- Consideration is given to UV protection for all teachers/staff involved in outdoor activities, including yard duty.
- Physical education and sport education teachers are encouraged to take appropriate sun protection measures as they are particularly at risk from UV radiation.
- UV protection is included in staff training to enable staff to work safely outdoors and to encourage them to be positive role models.
- UV protection information is included in staff handbooks and new staff are provided with a copy of this policy, this includes medical information to monitor and check skin changes.

5. Evaluation and review

Review and Monitoring of Policy

- This policy will be monitored by the Student Engagement and Well-Being Team who will ensure: All new staff have been briefed on the UV Policy.
- The UV Policy is included as an agenda item for the Term 1 and Term 4 staff meetings each year.
- The UV Policy is reviewed every three years by the School Council
- Evaluate and update the sun protection and skin cancer prevention component of the school curriculum (in collaboration with the Health and Physical Education staff).

6. Definitions & references

Healthy Together Victoria Achievement Program for Secondary Schools - Sun Protection Benchmarks <http://www.achievementprogram.healthytogether.vic.gov.au/schools>
Victorian Department of Health and Human Services School Shade Grants Program <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/preventive-health/skin-cancer-prevention/school-shade-grants>
Victorian Department of Education and Training's School Policy and Advisory Guide Sun and UV Protection chapter <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/sun.aspx>
Victorian Department of Education and Training's The Compact: Roles and Responsibilities

in School Education

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/management/Pages/compact.aspx>

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) Radiation

Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation

<http://www.arpansa.gov.au/publications/codes/rps12.cfm>

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/web_notes/ldms/pubstatbook.nsf/f932b66241ec

[f1b7ca256e92000e23be/750e0d9e0b2b387fca256f71001fa7be/\\$file/04-107a.pdf](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/web_notes/ldms/pubstatbook.nsf/f932b66241ecf1b7ca256e92000e23be/750e0d9e0b2b387fca256f71001fa7be/$file/04-107a.pdf)

Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet

Radiation in Sunlight 2008

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/>

[gn2008protectionfromultravioletradiation](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/gn2008protectionfromultravioletradiation)

7. Consultative process

- Subcommittee (Ed pol) of school council requested review of current SunSmart policy).
- Bayview Principal and SEWT updated language of policy in line with secondary schools.
- Staff and students consulted for feedback on current policy in Term 1, 2017.
- Feedback and ratification from council in Term 1, 2017.

Ratification:

This policy was ratified by school council on *Tuesday March 21 2017*.