

Sunsmart Policy

General Statement:

Jackson School is committed to ensuring that all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world and it is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practicing sun protection in early childhood and adolescence.

Jackson School will ensure that our sun protection practices are applied to all school activities from September 1st until April 30th each year

Rationale:

Aims:

- Increase student and whole school awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by exposure to UV radiation
- Assist students and staff to develop strategies that encourage responsible decision-making about skin protection.
- To work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for all members of the school community.
- To encourage all members of the school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above.
- To ensure that parents and new staff are informed of the school's Sunsmart policy.
- To establish a 100% of students and staff to follow Sunsmart protocols

Implementation:

- The summer uniform includes a shirt with at least elbow length sleeves and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone; as well as longer style shorts and dresses.
- The sports uniform includes a shirt with at least elbow length sleeves and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone, as well as longer style sports shorts.
- Staff and students are required to wear a bucket style hat whenever they are outside during September 1st until April 30th.
- SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen is available for staff and student use. This is available in the Physical Education / Sport area, each classroom as well as the general office. Parents are encouraged to supply their child with sunscreen or apply prior to the school day
- Suitable hats, clothing and sunscreen are required for all camps and excursions and will be clearly stated on permission forms.
- It is a requirement for staff to model appropriate sun smart practices when outside (sun protective clothing & hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade).
- All assemblies will be held indoors or in shade when UV index levels are high.
- Outdoor activities (particularly PE & Sport) will maximise the use of indoor and shade areas where possible, as well as consideration given to scheduling of classes outside the high risk UV times (11am – 3pm).
- Sun protection and educational programs will be incorporated into health lessons and other appropriate areas of the curriculum.
- Sun protective behaviour will be regularly reinforced throughout the year via the school newsletter, assemblies, daily messages, parent and staff meetings and whole school activities.
- BSCLP will ensure that adequate shade areas are provided within the school grounds and that sun protection is considered in plans for future buildings. Shade areas have been established for the canteen and lunch areas, as well as outdoor learning areas, and this will continue to be a priority for the school.
- Educational programs on skin cancer prevention and maintaining vitamin D levels are incorporated into appropriate areas of the school curriculum.
- New staff are given a copy of this policy
- Sunsmart notices will be placed on school website and in school newsletters
- Staff are encouraged to download sunsmart app which will be available through the staff portal
- The Jackson School portal to have the sunsmart widget
- Sunsmart policy to be available via the Jackson School website
- Parents / visitors are required to adhere to Sunsmart guidelines when attending school activities

- On high UV alert days the school will implement the adverse weather policy
- Sunsmart lessons will be implemented throughout the school
Sunsmart notices and reminders are placed throughout school grounds and learning areas

Appendices & Links:

- Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide: 4.5.11 Skin protection
- Building Quality Standards Handbook: Section 7.5.5 Shade Areas
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight
- SunSmart - www.sunsmart.com.au

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Ratified by School Council: _____

Review Date: _____

School Council President

Jackson School Principal