

## SUN PROTECTION POLICY

### **RATIONALE**

Sun protection is important to the Health and wellbeing of all students and staff at Mount Waverley Heights Primary School. Whilst the school is not directly responsible for each child's overall level of exposure to UV radiation we do have an obligation to ensure that every effort is made to minimise any of the harmful effects when they are at school. Sun protection is a joint responsibility of parents and the school during school hours.

### **GOALS**

- Comply with DET guidelines and the requirements of the Sunsmart program.
- Create appropriate sun-safe environments and encourage behaviours that provide balance a healthy balance of safe UV exposure the need for vitamin D from the sun.
- Encourage behaviour change through education and role-modelling
- Protect staff and students from harm caused by overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation
- Implement guidelines from the Anti Cancer Council of Australia for both students and staff that minimises exposure to the sun and to help prevent skin damage and ensure we remain an accredited school

### **GUIDELINES**

- All students should wear a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style school hat (with deep crown and brim width of at least 6cm) from the beginning of September until the end of April.
- Any child without a sun-smart school hat will be unable to participate in outdoors activity and will be directed to take appropriate shelter.
- Staff will be encouraged to model appropriate behaviours by wearing a sun-smart hat when outdoors.
- The use of SPF30+ sunscreen by the children is encouraged but remains the responsibility of parents. Teachers to remind children to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
- Suitable clothing should be worn by children on warm days. This does not include any garment which exposes bare shoulders such as tank tops. Appropriate sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code so that as much skin as possible is covered.
- A regular assessment of appropriate shelters and trees giving shade in the school grounds will be undertaken by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.
- Students should develop an understanding of sun protection through the 'health' curriculum on an annual basis.
- Outdoor activities such as Sport and Physical Education programs should ideally be undertaken outside peak periods of ultra violet radiation. (11am – 3pm during daylight saving hours.)
- Where required the school may implement 'hot day' program during days of high temperatures and strong winds. In these instances students may be asked to remain in class during recess and lunchtime breaks.
- To regularly re-enforce this policy in a positive way through newsletters and student/teacher activities and to make new families enrolling at the school aware of this policy.
- Students will be encouraged to wear sunglasses that adhere to Australian Standards. These sunglasses are to have plastic frames only.

### **ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES**

- All students wearing hats, appropriate clothing and sunscreen throughout the year, especially from the start of September to the end of April.
- Implementation of curriculum supporting this sun protection policy.

**Status:** Reviewed November 2011

**Ratified:** November 2011

**Next Review:** November 2014