

SUNSMART POLICY

KATANDRA SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2020

Contents

PURPOSE	3
SCOPE	3
POLICY	3
(a) Shade	4
(b) Sun Protective Uniform/Clothing	4
(c) Sunscreen	5
(d) Curriculum	5
(e) Engaging Students, Staff and Families	5
FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES	5
REVIEW CYCLE	6

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Katandra School that reflect a healthy UV exposure balance, ensuring some sun exposure for vitamin D while minimising the risk of skin cancer.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV index levels are 3 or above (generally September – April) and allow sun exposure when UV levels are below 3 (generally May – August);
- ensure that there are outdoor environments that provide adequate shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection; and
- support our school’s strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure and associated harm for students and staff.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

POLICY

A balance of sun exposure is important for health. Excessive exposure to the sun can cause health problems including sunburn, dehydration, damage to skin and eyes, and an increased risk of skin cancer.

Too little UV exposure from the sun can lead to low Vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy muscles and bones, and overall health.

UV radiation:

- cannot be seen or felt;
- can be reflected off surfaces such as buildings, asphalt, concrete, water, sand and snow;
- can pass through light clouds;
- varies in intensity across the year (highest in Victoria from September - April); and
- peaks during school hours.

A combination of sun protection measures should be put in place from September to the end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

Katandra School has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

(a) Shade

Katandra School will provide for sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- where students congregate for lunch;
- outdoor lesson areas;
- popular play areas;
- assembly/meeting areas; and
- playgrounds and sandpits.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Katandra School that may impact on the level of shading available to staff and students, a review of the shaded areas available will be conducted and further shading installed as appropriate.

(b) Sun Protective Uniform/Clothing

Katandra School recommends that from September to April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students wear sun-protective clothing such as:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric;
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines;
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves; or
- longer style shorts and skirts.

Katandra School's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric;
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines;
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves;
- longer style shorts and skirts; or
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

At recess and lunch times from September to April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, all students must **wear** a hat when playing outside.

Staff and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for Katandra broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket.

Students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck

and ears when outdoors, for Katandra broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Students who may not be wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat may be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

(c) Sunscreen

Katandra School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily at a minimum from September to the end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours if necessary.

Katandra School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors for Katandra i.e. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, and educational support staff.

At Katandra School students are welcome to ask the classroom staff to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the classroom teacher and Wendy Sheppard to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside from September to the end of April or whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

(d) Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Katandra School will address sun, UV safety and Vitamin D education as part of PDHPE lessons.

Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun smart behaviour and Vitamin D education across the school community.

(e) Engaging Students, Staff and Families

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety and Vitamin D education at school and at home. Katandra School may provide families and staff with information through the newsletter and school website.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)

- [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)
- [Achievement Program](#)'s SunSmart policy [schools will need to register for the program to gain access to these resources]

REVIEW CYCLE

This Code of Conduct or Policy was endorsed/approved by the Katandra School Council on November 2020 for review if legislative or other changes require in the interim or no later than November 2022.

Date Implemented	November 2020
Author	Rhett Watts
Approved By	School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	School Council President: Kellie Easton Signature Date
Date to be Reviewed	November 2022
Responsible for Review	Rhett Watts, Thomas Cazaly
References	Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide