



Yea High School Policy & Procedures

TITLE	SUNSMART POLICY
MANAGEMENT AREA:	
PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	Principal
LOCATION OF POLICY:	Website
DATE OF PREPARATION:	2006
ENDORSED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL:	JUNE 2017
REVIEW DATE:	2018 – Every 2 years

RATIONALE

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. It is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practising sun protection in early childhood and adolescence.

The SunSmart policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending Yea High School are protected from over exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. This policy documents our sun protection practices in the areas of behaviour, curriculum and environment. These practices will be applied to all school activities including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. It is to be implemented each school year throughout Term 1 and Term 4.

OBJECTIVES

The goals of the SunSmart Policy are to:

- Increase student and community awareness of skin cancer.
- Assist students to develop strategies which encourage responsible decision making about skin protection.
- Work towards a safe school environment which provides shade for students and staff.
- Encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high risk times such as lunchtimes, sports, excursions and camps.
- Ensure that parents are informed of the school's Sunsmart policy.

IMPLEMENTATION

Behaviour

Encourage all students and staff to wear sun protective hats that shade the face, neck and ears during recess, lunch time and during sporting and other high risk activities; wear clothing with sleeves and collars that are made from a closely woven fibre; and apply at least SPF 15 broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen before all outdoor activities and re-apply every two hours.



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School Organisation

- **School Uniform**
Include a SunSmart hat as part of the school uniform.
- **Assemblies**
Outdoor assemblies to be held early morning or in the shade where possible.
- **Physical Education and Sport Education**
All students to be protected from the sun during outdoor physical education and sport classes. Maximise the use of indoor and shade facilities. Scheduling lessons, where possible, outside of the high risk UV times of 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (during daylight savings time).
- **Camps and Excursions**
Suitable hats, clothing and sunscreen should be required for all camps and excursions. These items should be listed on the parent permission form.
- **Adult role models**
Appropriate behaviour should be modelled by teachers and parents to reinforce the policy.
- **Occupational Health and Safety**
Consideration should be given to sun protection for all teachers involved in outdoor activities including yard duty. Physical education and sport education teachers should be encouraged to take appropriate sun protection measures as they are particularly at risk from UV radiation.

Curriculum

- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer prevention programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.
- Encourage students to be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over exposure to the sun.
- Promote sun protection throughout the year via the school newsletter, assemblies, daily messages, parent and staff meetings and whole school activities.

Environment

- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff.
- Consider provision of temporary shade structures for use on sport days
- Continue program of planting shade trees in school grounds.

This policy will be monitored by the administration team who will ensure:

- All new staff have been briefed on the SunSmart policy.
- The SunSmart policy is included as an agenda item for the first January and September staff meetings of each year.
- The SunSmart policy is presented at the first School Council meeting and Parents' Club meeting each year.
- The SunSmart policy is included in the school handbook/school diary each year.
- SunSmart practices are promoted regularly from September through to May.
- The Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria is contacted annually to ensure that up-to-date information is maintained on SunSmart resources and policy guidelines.



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EVALUATION

The administration team in collaboration with the Student Representative Council will review the effectiveness of this policy each year. They will:

- Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents and guests visiting the school.
- Assess the provision of shade in the school.
- Assess the use of shade by students and staff.
- Check plans for future buildings and grounds with regards to shade provision (in consultation with the School Council).
- Evaluate and update the SunSmart protection and skin cancer prevention component of the curriculum (in collaboration with the health and physical education staff.)

Studies indicate that two out of three people who spend their childhood or adolescence in Australia will develop skin cancer at some stage in their lifetime.

Over exposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation is avoidable. For this reason Yea High School plans to implement a SunSmart policy. Your support will be critical if the SunSmart policy is to be successfully introduced into the school. Hats, sunscreen and shade provision are part of this policy.

HATS

- During terms 1 and 4 baseball caps will be banned at school.
- A broad brimmed hat is available for purchase from the School
- These hats must be worn for all outdoor activities. This includes school break times, physical education, sport, camps and excursions.
- A class set of hats will be available for students who forget their hats and wish to go outdoors during break times.
- Broad brimmed hats give the best protection for the face, neck and ears.

SUNSCREEN

Students should have a broad-spectrum SPF 15+ (or higher) water-resistant sunscreen in their lockers. We will also have sunscreen distribution points around the school so that students have access to sunscreen.

SHADE

The school has completed a shade audit and is currently planning to increase the amount of shade available to students. Students should be encouraged to seek shade between 11 am and 3 p.m. Ultraviolet radiation is at dangerous levels during the months of September through to April. It is important to remember that even cloudy days are not safe and that serious skin damage can occur on cool days.

Policy History

Version Approval Date	Summary of Changes
2006	Date of Preparation
June 2017	Review
June 2017	Endorsed by School Council