

SUNSMART POLICY

BELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rationale:

A balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Exposure to the sun's UV during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk.

Aims:

- To educate and support students to develop independent sun protection skills using the SunSmart protection strategies.
- To ensure all students and staff are well protected from too much UV exposure by using a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.
- To ensure all students and staff have some UV exposure for vitamin D.
- To ensure that the outdoor environment has some provision of shade for students and staff.
- To support duty of care requirements.
- To support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Implementation:

- This policy applies to all school events on and off site.
- This policy is to be read as part of our Student & Staff Dress Code. Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and longer length short sleeves and full length sleeves, longer style dresses.
- Students will be required to wear Anti-Cancer Council approved close-weave broad brimmed hats (at least 8 cm rigid brim) or legionnaire hats for all months except May, June, July, August whenever they are outside. Students who wear the hijab are still required to wear a Sun smart* hat to protect their face
- Staff are required to wear broad brim hats when outside to protect themselves and to act as role models.
- Students without broad brimmed hats will be restricted play in designated shelter shed areas.
- Students will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Sunscreen will be supplied by students and applied by students according to the manufacturer's directions, under the supervision of teachers with parental permission. Sunscreen is to generally be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and generally re-applied every two hours if necessary.
- Students will be encouraged to wear sunglasses.
- Whenever possible, outside activities should be scheduled before 11:00 am during the SunSmart months and the availability of shade be considered when planning outdoor activities and excursions.
- The school council will provide adequate shade structures and shade tree plantings for students as practicable; particularly over high density play areas such as sand pits and play equipment.

- The Uniform Shop will ensure that school uniform broad brimmed hats or legionnaires are available for purchase from the uniform store.
- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the SunSmart policy.
- Daily protection times can be accessed via a Sunsmart app, the Bureau of Meteorology website, and on Sunsmart widget to the school homepage.
- SunSmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.
- Our school is and will continue to be accredited as a SunSmart school by the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria - sunsmart.com.

Date Implemented	May 2014
Author	Ruth Vonarx
Ratified By	School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	
Date Reviewed	December 2017
Responsible for Review	Principal
Review Date	October 2020
References	Sunsmart.com.au DET School Policy Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV Protection (2017) Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight – Safe Work Australia (2008)