

SUNSMART POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending the College are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultra-violet (UV) rays of the sun. Sun safe practices should be implemented throughout the year but with particular emphasis in Term Four and Term One.

At UV level 3 or higher, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April. (Daily UV Levels accessed through BOM or SunSmart Website.)

The sun protection measures listed in this policy are used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times.

This policy is considered in the planning of all outdoor events such as camps, excursions and sporting events.

AIMS

- To increase student and community awareness of skin cancer.
- To assist students to develop strategies which encourage responsible decision-making about sun protection.
- To provide a safe school environment, which minimises harm from the sun.
- To encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high-risk times such as lunch times, sports, camps and excursions.

IMPLEMENTATION

- This policy is to be read as part of the Student and Staff Dress Codes.
- Rash vests or t-shirts are required during water sport activities, and while students are waiting to compete in outdoor swimming competitions.
- Singlet tops and short shorts are not permitted to be worn on casual clothes days.
- Students without approved school hats will be restricted to designated shaded areas.
- The College will ensure that school uniform broad brimmed and bucket hats are available for purchase from the uniform supplier and from the Administration Office.
- All students will be required to wear Anti-Cancer Council approved close-weave broad brimmed or bucket hats whenever they are outside during terms One and Four in particular, and between Mid-August and the end of April when the daily UV level reaches 3 or above.
- Students will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Sunscreen will be provided in each classroom, and on excursions and camps.
- The Victory Christian College Board will provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable; particularly over high-density areas such as eating spaces and passive leisure locations. Temporary shade structures will be erected at Sporting and VRT events.
- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the Sunsmart policy.
- Sunsmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND LINKS

- Department of Education and Training (Vic): [Guidelines for School Playgrounds](#) (2012) – Section 3.2.5
- Department of Education and Training (Vic): [Outdoor activities](#)
- Department of Education and Training (Vic): School Policy and Advisory Guide (SPAG) – [Sun and UV protection](#) (2019)
- Independent Schools Victoria: [Managing a school – Health & safety compliance framework: OHS > Sun protection](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act \(Vic\) 2004](#)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance note for the protection of workers from the ultraviolet radiation in sunlight](#) (2008)
- Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT): [The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#) – Principle 3.2
- Victorian School Building Authority: [Building Quality Standards Handbook](#) (2018) – Section 5.1.4 Shaded areas