



St Columba's SunSmart Policy

The care, safety and welfare of the students at St Columba's School is of utmost importance. To ensure that students are provided with a safe environment, the teachers in the school have a duty of care which is implemented through the following procedures. This policy applies to all school events on and off-site.

Purpose

This Sun Smart policy provides guidelines to:

- Ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- Ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- Ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own protection [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#):
Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

Procedures

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the free [SunSmart app](#), or at sunsmart.com.au.
- The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.

1. Seek shade

- The school Advisory Council makes sure there are sufficient shelters providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas e.g. where students have lunch, sports, outdoor lessons and popularly spaces.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities
- Students are encouraged to use available area of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- In consultation with the School Advisory Council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

2. Slip on sun protective clothing

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included on our school uniform/dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer dresses and shorts.

3. Slap on a hat

- All students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (Bucket Hat) whenever they are outside. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative and should not be worn by students or staff.

4. Slop on sunscreen

- Students must wear sunscreen of SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water resistant that is supplied by the school. Students with allergies to sunscreen are asked to supply their own.
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (which state to apply at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

Engaging children, staff and families

- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community via the newsletter, school website, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:
 1. Wear sun protective hat, covering clothing and if practical sunglasses;
 2. Apply sunscreen; and
 3. Seek shade whenever possible
- The School Advisory Council and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy and revise the policy when required (at least every three years) by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at [sunsmart.com.au](https://www.sunsmart.com.au).
- SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families and visitors via the school website.

VRQA	
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