



## SunSmart POLICY

### RATIONALE

To ensure that Bentleigh Secondary College staff, students and community are aware of their roles and responsibilities in providing clear guidelines that address sun protective behaviours, environments and learning to minimise UV exposure and skin cancer risk for children and young adults.

### Legislation and standards

- [Duty of Care](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#): Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

### Implementation

The sun protection times are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are predicted to reach 3 or higher, based on your location. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels typically reach 3 or higher daily from mid-August to the end of April.

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](#), [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).

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 assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events, and applies to all school events both on and off-site.

Implementation throughout Terms 1 and 4 only is insufficient to protect against UV risks.

### Procedures

#### 1. Clothing

- The summer and winter school uniform/dress codes include:
  - Longer-style skirts, shorts and pants at least to the knee.
- The sport uniform/dress code includes:
  - A shirt that covers the shoulders well and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone.
  - Longer-style skirts, shorts and pants (at least to the mid-thigh).
- The uniform is cool and loose-fitting, and is made from densely woven fabric.
- Rash vests or t-shirts are required between water sport activities, and while students are waiting to compete in outdoor swimming competitions.

#### 2. Hats

- Students are required to wear the college hat that protect their face whenever they are outside. Visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

#### 3. Sunscreen

- The school supplies SPF50 broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and students to use. Students are also free to bring their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to school.
- Strategies are in place to remind and encourage students to use sunscreen, and staff provide time for students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
- The school community is educated about the correct use of sunscreen and the level of protection it provides (apply 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours)

#### 4. Shade

- The school council/board ensures shade is available in the school grounds, particularly in areas where students congregate – for example, lunch areas, canteen, and outdoor lesson areas. Through this three additional shade sails have been erected in various playgrounds.
- Additional trees have been planted to provide shade.
- The school council/board ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities and excursions.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside, particularly if they do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing.

#### 5. Sunglasses [if practical]



- Where practical, students are encouraged to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

#### 6. Extra Curricular Events and Camps/Excursions

- School Swimming Carnivals
  - Newsfeed to students reminding them to apply sunscreen prior to the start of the carnival.
  - Staff are assigned to walk around with Sunscreen
  - House Tents erected for each house providing additional shade
  - Regular Sunsmart reminders via the PA system throughout the day
  - Spare sunscreen placed at the recording table, finish line and at each House tent
  - Details listed in the RISK assessment
- Camps/Excursions
  - Sunscreen listed on the packing list. This is checked by the teacher prior to leaving.
  - Staff are assigned to walk around with Sunscreen
  - Students are required to bring a wide brimmed hat for all OES Camps
  - Rashies are provide for all surfing, kayaking and other water based activities.

#### 7. Staff role-modelling and OHS

- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff:
  - Wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
  - Apply SPF50 broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and
  - Seek shade whenever possible.
- SunSmart information is included in staff handbook/orientation materials.
- Staff are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun protection education across the curriculum.

#### 8. Learning

- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- Programs on sun protection are incorporated into appropriate areas of the curriculum, including PE/Health, OES, Science, VCE Biology and VCE Physics classes.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through a variety of channels such as newsletters, school website/intranet, staff meetings and school assemblies.

#### Monitoring and review

- The school council, staff and SRC monitor and review the effectiveness of the sun protection policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.
- SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families, students and visitors.

#### EVALUATION

*Review 17/2/2024, with recommended changes being presented to College Council*