

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 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.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- [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](#)