



Yarraville Special Developmental School
No. 5278

UV PROTECTION POLICY

Yarraville SDS Principal: Ashwini Sharma

School Council President: Kim Mace

Certification

School Council President

Signed.....*Kim Mace*

Date.....22/5/17

Principal

Signed.....*Ashwini Sharma*

Date.....22/5/17

This policy ratified at School Council meeting 28/3/17



UV PROTECTION POLICY

1. **Rationale:**

Yarraville Special Developmental School (YSDS) understands the challenge of growing up in Australia, where skin cancer rates are amongst the world's highest, and YSDS acknowledges that too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

2. **Goal:**

To be 'UV safe'; that is, to ensure that all students and staff attending YSDS have the opportunity to be protected from excessive UV exposure, via all the methods practically available to YSDS, during the daily sun protection times issued whenever UV levels reach three or higher (typically from mid-August to the end of April, here in Victoria).

3. **Implementation:**

To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the SunSmart widget on the school's website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or myuv.com.au.

3.1 **Provision of Shade**

Understanding the unique cohort of students at YSDS, certain UV protection strategies (such as guaranteed hat use or sunscreen application) are prohibitively difficult to *fully* enforce. Shade is particularly important to our UV protection rationale.

YSDS will:

- Over time, increase the proportion of shaded play spaces in our grounds.
- Encourage students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing to choose a shady space or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- Encourage students, generally, to play in shaded areas of our grounds.
- Where practical, ensure outdoor activities are held in shaded areas of our grounds.

3.2 **Awareness**

YSDS will:

- Involve students in learning activities to develop an awareness of being UV safe.
- Encourage staff to model UV safe behaviour.
- Seek ongoing support from parents, and the wider school community, for UV safety awareness through timely notices in our newsletter.

3.3 Sunscreen & clothing

YSDS will:

- Require students to wear loose-fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible, such as tops with elbow-length sleeves, higher necklines (or collars) and knee-length or longer shorts and skirts. Clothing made from cool, densely woven fabric will be recommended. Students wearing singlets or shoestring dresses will be encouraged to choose a t-shirt to wear, as extra coverage, before going outdoors.
- Encourage students and staff to wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears (wide brimmed or bucket hats) when outside.
- Encourage students to use SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, available in classrooms, when outside.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours or more frequently if sweating.
- Strategies are in place to support and remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (sunscreen monitors, SunSmart posters).

3.4 Scheduling

YSDS will:

- Avoid scheduling outdoor activities, in areas without shade, during peak UV times (from mid-August to the end of April).
- Revert to indoor timetables, for recess and lunch, at peak UV times if other sun protection measures can't be used.

4. Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school three-year review cycle.
- YSDS will conduct a shade audit every three years.

Updated:	March 2017
Ratified by:	YSDS School Council
On:	
Revision date:	March 2020