

# Murrayville Community College Sun Protection / UV Policy

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## **Rationale**

This Sun Protection / UV Policy has been developed to ensure that all students and workers (ie teachers, staff and volunteers) of Murrayville Community College maintain a healthy UV exposure balance which minimises the risk of skin cancer with appropriate sun protection measures, yet ensures some daily sun exposure for vitamin D requirements.

## **Aims**

- Assist the school community to achieve a healthy UV balance.
- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

## **Implementation**

### Curriculum

- Educational programs on skin cancer prevention and healthy UV exposure for vitamin D are incorporated into appropriate areas of the school curriculum in all year levels.

### Uniform/clothing

- The wearing of broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats is compulsory in Terms 1 & 4, however students are actively encouraged to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats whenever they are outside.
- The summer uniform/dress code includes a shirt with sleeves and a collar.
- Workers are required to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats for all outdoor activities, including yard duty during Terms 1 & 4.
- Parents should also be encouraged to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
- The school will support those staff and students who choose to wear sunglasses. A close fitting wrap around style that meets AS 1067 is recommended.

### Sunscreen

- Students and staff are actively encouraged to apply SPF50 broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen regularly eg. prior to school, before lunch, PE lessons, sport, excursions, etc.
- Sunscreen is easily available throughout the school for staff and student use.

### Sport and Physical Education

- Students are actively encouraged to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats for sport and physical education.
- The school sport uniform/dress code includes shirts with collars - singlets are not to be worn during outdoor sport, excursions, camps or casual days; exceptions being for Cross Country and Athletics events, where MCC athletics singlets may be worn, in combination with 50+ sunscreen, during terms 2 and 3 only.
- For outdoor swimming carnivals and events, students should be encouraged to wear a t-shirt or rash vest.
- Where possible, outdoor activities/events will be scheduled to minimise time in direct sun e.g. earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. The use of indoor and shaded facilities will be considered at other times where possible.
- Physical Ed teachers will be required to wear a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat, and sensible clothing that covers skin.

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## Camps and Excursions

- Sun protection is considered in the planning of all camps and excursions.
- Processes for the planning of outdoor activities and excursions include the provision of shade areas, eg permanent and portable structures, and access to trees etc.

## Shade

- The school council ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- The school council ensures shade is available in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate – for example, lunch areas, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.
- Where shade is otherwise not available, temporary shade structures will be considered for events such as sports carnivals.
- Students and staff are actively encouraged to use shade when outside, particularly if they are not wearing appropriate hats or clothing.

## Occupational Safety and Health

- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role modelling, all workers are required to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing, broad brimmed hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when outside.

## **General awareness and reminders**

- The school actively promotes a positive culture around sun protection. ie Via school newsletters, notice boards, assembly announcements and school website etc

## **Professional Learning**

- Information about a balanced approach to UV exposure is included in staff training to enable staff to work safely outdoors and encourage them to be positive role models.
- Information on appropriate UV exposure measures are included in staff manuals.
- New staff are provided with a copy of this policy as part of their induction.

**Teaching staff are encouraged to complete Cancer Council's free online professional learning modules at [www.GenerartionSunSmart.com](http://www.GenerartionSunSmart.com)**

## **Evaluation**

- This policy will be reviewed annually.

When First Approved: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014

When Last Reviewed / Modified: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017