

700 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & WELLBEING**732 Sun Smart**

School Policy and Advisory Guide Reference: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/spag/azindex/default.htm		Last Update March 2010
Last Ratified by School Council		Date Month Year
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Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. It is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practising sun protection in childhood and adolescence. The Wodonga Senior Secondary College policy has been developed as part of our commitment to a safe school environment, to reduce the risk to students and staff to exposure to UV radiation from the sun. The policy includes all college activities in the areas of behaviour, curriculum and environment. Clothing, sunscreen, scheduling and role modelling will be implemented in Term 1 and Term 4.

Wodonga Senior Secondary College will:

1. Plan, budget and work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for the entire school community.
2. Ensure shade is available in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate; lunch areas, canteen, lunchtime activities and outdoor lesson areas.
3. Ensure that processes for the planning of outdoor activities and excursions include the consideration of shade.
4. Ensure shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
5. Encourage students to use shade when outside particularly if they are not wearing appropriate hats or clothing.
6. Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
7. Increase student and whole-school awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by exposure to UV radiation.
8. Ensure that sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform/ dress code that includes a shirt with at least elbow length sleeves and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone. Tank tops are not recommended. Scoop necks, v-necks or any other necklines below the collarbone are not recommended.
9. Ensure that the summer uniform/ dress code include longer style skirts/ shorts/ pants at least to the knee.
10. Ensure that the Physical Education/ Sport uniform includes a shirt that covers the shoulders well and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone. It includes longer style skirts/ shorts/ pants at least to mid-thigh.
11. Ensure that during Physical Education/ Sport classes students wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (i.e. broad-brimmed or bucket hats), whenever they are outside. During Physical Education/ Sport classes, baseball caps are worn where a broad-brimmed or bucket hat may be impractical.
12. Ensure that rash-vests or T-shirts are worn for outdoor swimming when students are waiting to compete in non-shaded areas.
13. Ensure that students and staff wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (i.e. broad brimmed or bucket hats) whenever they are outside. Staff are encouraged to act as role models by using a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when outside.
14. Encourage families and visitors to the college to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
15. Encourage students and staff 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.
16. Ensure that SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is available for staff and students' use and students are encouraged to bring their own sunscreen to school.

17. Encourage students to use sunscreen and provide time for students to apply sunscreen before going outside.
18. Ensure the school community is educated about the correct use of sunscreen and the level of protection it provides.
19. Ensure where possible, outdoor activities/ events are scheduled earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon, or indoor venues will be considered.
20. Ensure that sun protection and educational programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the college curriculum.
21. Encourage students to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
22. Ensure that sun protective behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through a variety of channels such as newsletters, pathway meetings, staff meetings and school assemblies.
23. Ensure that sun protection is included in staff training and that information is included in staff booklets.

Evaluation

The School Council, staff and the Student Leadership Council will regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the sun protection policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.

They will:

1. Review the sun protection behaviour of students, staff, parents and visitors within the college.
2. Assess the provision of shade in the college.
3. Evaluate and update the sun protection and skin cancer protection component of the curriculum (in collaboration with the Health and Physical Education staff)