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# MAGPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL SUN SMART POLICY

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JULY 24, 2019  
MAGPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
61 Docwra Street, Magpie 3352

# Magpie Primary School Sun Smart Policy Document

**Rationale:** Australia has the one of the highest incidences of skin cancer of any country in the world with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

Sun protection is required when the UV rays reach 3 and above. In Victoria average UV levels are three and above from mid-August to the end of April. During these months particular care should be taken between 10am – 3pm when UV levels reach their peak.

**Purpose:** The aim of this policy is to increase students/teachers knowledge and understanding around being Sun Smart. With this knowledge we aim to reduce skin cancer incidents.

- 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](http://sunsmart.com.au).
- The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the **daily local sun protection times**.

*The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.*

**Objectives:** The goals of our Sun Smart policy is to:

1. Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for children, staff and the school community at appropriate times.
2. Ensure that parents are informed of the School's Sun Smart policy.
3. Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer prevention programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.
4. Promote sun protection throughout the year via the school newsletter, assemblies, daily messages, parents and staff meetings and whole school activities.
5. Assist students to develop strategies which encourage responsible decision making about skin protection.
6. Ensure students, parents, teachers and staff wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high risk times such as lunchtimes, sports, excursions and camps
7. Recess/Lunch time play is conducted in classrooms on days of extreme heat (36 degrees plus).
8. Swimming lessons are held in an enclosed swimming pool.
9. Students who do not have a hat at playtime are directed to stay in a designated shade area
10. Students who do not have a hat for outdoor learning activities are asked to borrow a spare hat so they can participate
11. **School Uniform includes:** Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirt with collars and elbow-length sleeves, longer dresses and shorts and rash vest or t-shirt for outdoor swimming. All students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket hat), whenever outside. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

12. **Physical Education and Sport Education:** All students to be protected from the sun during outdoor physical education and sport classes by the use of hats and sunscreen. Maximise the use of indoor and shade facilities.
13. **Camps and Excursions:** Suitable hats, clothing and sunscreen will be required for all camps and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.
14. **Adult role models:** Appropriate behaviour should be modelled by teachers and parents to reinforce the policy.
15. **Sunscreen:** Will be available from Staff Room, PE Office, classrooms and in the first aid kit for all recesses, lunch times and school excursions.
16. Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
17. Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).

#### **Sun Smart Strategic Goals (2019 – 2022):**

- **Section 1** - to build shelter for the following areas within the school:
  - Coloured playground
  - Metal playground
  - Sand pit
- **Section 2** – provide 50% shade to our hardcourt area.
- **Section 3** - Continue to plant trees around the school to provide areas of additional shade for students to sit under.

#### **This policy will be monitored by the Principal & PE Health teacher who will ensure:**

1. All new staff have been briefed on Sun Smart policy.
2. The Sun Smart policy is included as an agenda item for the first staff meetings of each year.
3. The Sun Smart policy is presented at the first School Council meeting of each year.
4. Sun Smart practices are promoted regularly from mid-August through to April.

**Evaluation:** This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis but reviewed thoroughly during term 1 of each year to ensure Magpie PS is meeting the minimum and latest standards required from Sun Smart Australia, Cancer Council Victoria & the Victorian Education Department. This document must be ratified each year by the School Council.