Mount Pleasant Primary School

SUNSMART GUIDELINES

2024

This policy applies to all MPPS school events on and off-site

Rationale

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 strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70.

Purpose

This SunSmart policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors

Further Information

Duty of Care
Department of Education WA strengthens sun protection requirements for schools - Generation SunSmart

- The MPPS SunSmart Policy is in effect all year round and is applicable to all Staff and Students

Environment

Seek shade

- The MPPS Parents and Citizens Association (P & C) makes sure there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas e.g. where students have lunch, canteen, assemblies, sports, outdoor lessons and popular play spaces
- The availability of shade and timing of the day is considered when planning all other outdoor activities
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun
- In consultation with the P & C, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment will be conducted regularly by school staff and P & C to determine the current availability and quality of shade. The outcome of the assessment will determine the need for the provision of additional shade shelters.

Behaviours

Slip on *sun protective clothing*

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirts with collars and sleeves, longer dresses, leggings, long sleeve under shirts are being investigated as part of the MPPS uniform and will be an optional uniform item.

Slap *on a sun protective hat*

- All students and staff wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (bucket hat), whenever they are outside. Caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

Slop *on sunscreen*

- Students provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
- Sunscreen is made available in classrooms, by the P & C, for students to self-apply (Students are reminded that sunscreen should be 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)

Slide on *sunglasses* [if practical or desired]

- Where practical and if desired, students are able 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

Learning

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community — profiled through poster displays & student announcements
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation — profiled by student leaders at assembly

OHS

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:

- wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
- apply sunscreen; and
- seek shade whenever possible

Monitoring and review

- Review of the effectiveness of the SunSmart guidelines will be completed annually by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at sunsmart.com.au
- The SunSmart policy is available to staff, students, families and visitors

Next Policy Review: December 2025