



# STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

## SunSmart Policy

### **Rationale:**

Excessive exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause health problems including sunburn, damage to skin and eyes, and an increased risk of skin cancer.

UV radiation:

- cannot be seen or felt
- can be reflected off surfaces such as buildings, asphalt, concrete, water, sand and snow
- can pass through light clouds
- varies in intensity across the year (highest in Victoria from mid-August – end of April)
- peaks during school hours

Sun safety is a shared responsibility and staff, parents and students are encouraged to implement a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above (typically from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria).

### **Aims:**

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Stawell Secondary College to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer. This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff. This policy provides guidelines to:

- support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV index levels are 3 or above (generally mid-August – end of April)
- ensure that there are outdoor environments that provide adequate shade for students and staff
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection
- support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure and associated harm for students and staff.

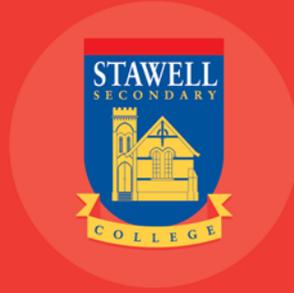
### **Date Effective:**

October 2020

### **Implementation:**

Stawell Secondary School will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- where students congregate for lunch
- the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas



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## **Sun protective uniform/clothing**

Stawell Secondary College uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- Designated school hat representing the school and house colours which is issued to all students at the start of Year 7
- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar

As we are a secondary school, we encourage students to take responsibility for being SunSmart by wearing the school hat and/or wearing sunscreen during outdoor activities or staying in the shade.

## **Sunscreen**

Stawell Secondary College will provide sunscreen stations strategically located around the school to encourage all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

## **Sunglasses**

Where practical Stawell Secondary College encourages students and staff engaged in outdoor activities to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

## **Curriculum**

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Our school will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health and Physical Education (HAPE) curriculum in years 7 and 9. Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun smart behaviour across the school community.

## **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle in March each year in accordance with the Child Safe Policy. The review will be led by the Wellbeing Team referred to the Policy Sub-Committee and School Council for ratification.

Last reviewed:           New policy October 2020  
Next review date:       March 2021



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## **History:**

First issued	New policy October 2020
Date of update	