



## SUNSMART POLICY

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Most skin cancers can be prevented by using sun protection measures whenever UV levels are three or higher. Given school hours fall within peak UV periods of the day, Marist-Sion College Warragul (**Marist-Sion College**) supports the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students by implementing effective UV protection strategies.

### 2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is 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 College's strategies to meet duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors
- take UV protection measures when UV levels are 3 or above.

### 3.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all outdoor activities on and off-site at Marist-Sion College.

### 4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

Sun safety is a shared responsibility and staff, parents/guardians/carers and students. Everyone is encouraged to implement a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

### 5.0 SUN PROTECTION MEASURES

Staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the [SunSmart widget](#) on the College's Learning School Management Software (**SIMON**), [free SunSmart Global UV app](#), [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au). Sun protection is recommended for all skin types where the UV levels are predicted to reach 3 or higher. In Victoria, UV levels typically reach 3 or higher daily from mid-August to the end of April. Students will be directed to wear their hats during these months.

Marist-Sion College will undertake the following UV protection measures:

### **Shade**

- Provide enough shade (natural, built, temporary) available in the College grounds, particularly in high-use areas– for example where students have lunch, canteen, popular spaces, assemblies, sports and outdoor lessons
- Consider the availability of shade when planning all outdoor activities and excursions.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside
- There is shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

### **College uniform**

- Loose, cool fabric with collars and appropriate length
- Students are required to wear their hats during Break Times, Sport and Physical Education lessons, when learning or participating in College events outside
- College Hats are the broad-brimmed, bucket style
- College Caps may be used in combination with sunscreen on parts of skin not covered
- Students without a College approved hat will be asked to use shaded areas or suitable areas protected from the sun.

### **Sunscreen**

- The College supplies SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and students to use.

### **Staff role-modelling**

- Staff wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses
- Staff apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
- Seek shade whenever possible
- SunSmart Policy and information is included in staff handbook/induction materials and are made aware of the policy annually
- Staff encourage students to support initiatives to protect the College community from over-exposure to the sun.

### **Offsite Activities**

- UV radiation exposure is considered as part of the school's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities on and off-site, e.g. UV radiation protection strategies (hats, clothing, shade, sunscreen) are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

### **School community and visitors**

Families, visitors and volunteers are also asked to:

- wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
- apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and
- seek shade whenever possible.

## Curriculum

- Sun protection and skin cancer programs are incorporated into the Health curriculum
- The Deputy Principal - Wellbeing Partnerships and Safety promotes sun protection via Emmaus, assemblies, daily messages, parent and staff meetings and whole school activities
- The Deputy Principal - Wellbeing Partnerships and Safety encourages students to download the Sun Smart app and to refer to the Sun Smart information on SIMON.

## 6.0 RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with other related College policies, procedures, and codes. These include:

### MSCW policies, procedures, and codes

- Student Uniform Policy
- Staff Dress Code
- Duty of Care Policy

### Other related documents

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#)

## 7.0 AUTHORITY, MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Chief Executive Officer, Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited (**DOSCEL**), is responsible for the management and general administration of DOSCEL Colleges. Based on the principle of subsidiarity and in keeping with the DOSCEL Delegation Register for Colleges, a broad range of duties, functions, powers and authority are delegated to the Principal. This includes the effective implementation of this policy.

The Principal is responsible for:

- ensuring compliance with the obligations outlined in this policy;
- assigning authority, responsibility and accountability at appropriate levels within the College for policy implementation and compliance;
- providing delegated College staff with the direction, support and resources necessary to fulfil policy requirements;
- ensuring cyclic reviews of the policy;
- reporting and escalating concerns, issues and policy breaches to the Chief Executive Officer, DOSCEL, and working collaboratively with the Chief Executive Officer, DOSCEL, to resolve them.

## 8.0 POLICY STATUS AND REVIEW

The Principal is responsible for reviewing and updating the Policy annually.

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| <b>Approval</b>             | Principal, Marist-Sion College.                              |
| <b>Implementation Date:</b> | May 1999   |
| <b>Last Amended:</b>        | September 2023   |
| <b>Consultation:</b>        | Student Representative Council<br>Executive Team             |
| <b>Review Date:</b>         | September 2024 (Note: this policy must be reviewed annually) |