SunSmart Policy

Rationale:
A healthy balance of the sun's ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Too much UV from the sun can cause sunburn, skin damage, eye damage and skin cancer. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Two in three Australians will develop some form of skin cancer before they are 70. Overexposure to UV during childhood and adolescence is a major cause of skin cancer.

Aims:
To ensure that all students and staff maintain a healthy UV exposure balance
To encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
To have a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times.
Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
Ensure that all members of the school community are informed of and follow the school's SunSmart policy.

Implementation:
• The SunSmart policy is to be considered when planning all outdoor events e.g. assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events. Where possible, outdoor activities/events will be scheduled to minimise time in direct sun e.g. earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Shaded and indoor venues will be considered.
• Students and staff will be encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures. Extra care is to be taken between 10am and 3pm when UV levels reach their peak during the day.
• All students are required to wear a suitable hat and apply sunscreen (factor 30 + broad spectrum water resistant) BEFORE they go outdoors in terms 1 and 4. Teachers will encourage and remind students to wear sunscreen and suitable hats before going outside.
• Sunscreen (factor 30) will be provided in each area although students are encouraged to have their own.
• Hats will be a broad brimmed style hat that shades the face, ears and neck. Other clothing should provide adequate protection from the sun.
• Students will be directed to stay in designated shade areas if they do not have appropriate clothing and hat during recess and lunchtime, in Terms 1 and 4.
• Children will be permitted to borrow a suitable hat, provided by the school, to ensure that all students are able to participate in any outdoor education program and excursions.
• Students and staff are encouraged 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.
• SunSmart behaviour is to be regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies and classroom activities.
Staff are encouraged to access the daily SunSmart UV Alert to assist with the implementation of this policy.

DEET guidelines for Skin Protection can be located in the Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide:
4.5.11 Skin protection