SUNSMART POLICY

Movelle School Values:
Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Learning, Teamwork

Mission Statement:
Movelle Primary School values continual learning and encourages respect, resilience, teamwork and responsibility in all that we do.

Purpose:
A healthy balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun’s UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Our Sunsmart Policy has been developed to ensure that all children attending this school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun. It is to be implemented throughout the year with a combination of sun protection measures used from TERM 3 to the end of TERM 1.

Goals:
- Reduce incidence of skin damage occurring to children at school.
- Foster a belief that skin damage is predictable and preventable.
- Involvement of School Council, teachers, parents, guardians and students in developing an awareness and participation in Sunsmart practices.
- Encourage changes to the environment and organisation which can influence behaviour and prevent sun damage.
- Staff are encouraged to access the daily SunSmart UV Alert at sunsmart.com to find out the daily sun protection measures whenever outdoors to assist with the implementation of this policy.

Implementation:
From Term 3 to the end of term 1 in Victoria, when average UV Index levels reach 3 and above, a combination of sun protection measures are used whenever outdoors including:

Behaviour
- Encourage children to wear hats which protect the face, neck and ears (e.g. wide brimmed or bucket hats) whenever they are outside (eg. recess, lunch, sport, excursions).
- Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform /dress code and sports uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and longer sleeves,
longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

- Children without appropriate hats or covering clothing will only be allowed to play in shaded areas.
- Work with the parent/guardian community to provide 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for student use whenever possible.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if necessary.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
- Encourage children to use available areas of shade during outdoor activities.
- Encourage staff and parents/guardians to act as role models by practising Sunsmart behaviours.
- Encourage use of Australian Standard (1067) wrap-around sunglasses.
- Our Sunsmart Policy applies to all school events on and off site.
- Our OSHC will abide by Movelle’s Sunsmart Policy.

**Curriculum**

- Conduct curriculum activities that will contribute to the safety education of children in line with the Human Development, Human Relations and Safety areas of the AusVels Standards for Key Learning Domains – Health and Physical Education.
- Regularly reinforce Sunsmart behaviour in positive ways through newsletters, parent/guardian meetings, student and teacher activities.

**Environment**

- Organise outdoor activities to be held in areas of shade in the school grounds.
- The school continues to provide adequate shaded areas through increasing the number of trees in the playground.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.

**Staff OHS and Role modelling**

- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, when the UV is 3 and above

**Staff:**

- Wear protective sun hats, clothing and sunglasses outside
- Apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- Seek shade whenever possible
From May to August in Victoria
When average UV index levels are below 3, sun protection measures are not used from May until August unless in alpine regions, near highly reflective surfaces such as snow or outside for extended periods.

Evaluation:
- Regular Sunsmart audits.
- Increase in the number of children who practice appropriate skills at all times.

Relevant Documents /Links
- Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide: 4.5.11 Skin Protection
- Victorian Early Years Learning and development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Building Quality standards Handbook)BQSH): Section 7.5.5.Shade Areas
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry Into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools- Government Response
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 Sections 21 and 23: Main Duties of Employers Section 25: Duties of Employers
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight.

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<tr>
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