



10 Laceys Rd, PO Box 140, Cottles Bridge VIC 3099 Phone: 9718 1481  
info@learningcooperative.vic.edu.au [www.learningcooperative.vic.edu.au](http://www.learningcooperative.vic.edu.au)

## Learning Co-operative Sun Smart Policy

### Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at the Learning Co-operative to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures from 1<sup>st</sup> September – 30<sup>th</sup> April.
- educate students as to suitable sun smart protection strategies.
- 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.

### Scope

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

### Implementation

- Parents must supply a legionnaire or broad brimmed hat for their child from the start of September to the end of April.
- Staff will ensure that the Sun Smart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor activities

In the event of temperatures reaching 32 degrees, The Learning Co-operative will minimise the time that students are outside in the middle of the day. On extreme weather days, the decision may be made for all students to remain inside or under cover.



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## Policy

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). Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via, the free SunSmart app, or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).

The Learning Co-operative has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

## Shade

The Learning Co-operative will provide sufficient options for shelter and numerous trees provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.

## Sun protective clothing

The Learning Co-operative does not have a school uniform, but parents are reminded from 1<sup>st</sup> September – 30<sup>th</sup> April that children should be wearing:

- loose, cool, closely woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.



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From 1<sup>st</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> April all students are required to wear a hat that protects the face, neck, and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat are required to play in the shaded areas only. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the September to April time, by parent or student choice.

Staff will be positive role models by wearing appropriate hats, sunglasses, and clothing outdoors, applying sunscreen regularly and seeking shade whenever possible.

### **Sunscreen**

The Learning Co-operative encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours according to manufacturer's instructions.

The Learning Co-operative supplies SPF30 Sunscreen in the main room and on both buses for students and staff. Families who have children with allergies or specific sunscreen needs will be asked to supply their own sunscreen which stays in the child's bag. Children will be encouraged to reapply sunscreen themselves during school time.

The Learning Co-operative has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, staff and parent meetings, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

### **Sunglasses**

Where practical the Learning Co-operative encourages students and staff engaged in outdoor activities 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.

### **Curriculum**

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. The Learning Co-operative will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum.



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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.

#### Further Information and Resources

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
  - Sun and UV Protection Policy
  - Duty of care
- SunSmart

#### Evaluation

The governing board will review the Child Information Sharing Scheme Policy every two years.

This policy was ratified by the School Board on: **11/10/2021**

***This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the ongoing overall policy review process.***


Chairperson's signature:

(MYRA THEISZ)



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Date	Version	Approver	Next Review Date
15/10/2021	2	<p>Name: MYRA THEISZ</p> <p>Position: Chairperson of the School Board</p> <p>Signature: </p>	October 2024