SUNSMART POLICY
PASCOE VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rationale:
Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school.

Aims:
• To educate students as to suitable sunsmart protection strategies.
• To encourage children and teachers to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.

Implementation:
• Children will be required to wear a Cancer Council approved hat (our school hats have an 8 cm rigid brim) from 1st September until 30th April whenever they are outside.
• Teachers and volunteers assisting outdoors to be encouraged to wear a Cancer Council approved hat

Recommended Hats (www.sunsmart.com.au)
• Hats should shade the face, neck, ears and head.
• These styles provide excellent protection from the sun: Broad brimmed hat and legionnaire hats.
  ▪ Broad-brimmed hats with a brim of at least 7.5 cm
  ▪ Bucket or surflie style hats with a brim of at least 6 cm (for primary school children and older) or 5 cm (for pre-school children).

Baseball caps are not recommended as they do not adequately shade the cheeks, ears or neck.

• Staff will act as role models by also wearing one of the approved hats when outside.
• Children without approved hats will be restricted to playing in designated shaded areas.
• Children will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Provision of sunscreen for children will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
• Sunscreen will be applied by students according to the manufacturer's directions.
• The School Council will provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable and affordable; particularly over high density play areas such as sand pits and play equipment.
• Approved hats are available for purchase from Primary School Wear Store (PWS) and the school office.
• Parents are expected to send their children in appropriate footwear to school. This means no thongs or open-toed sandals. Footwear should provide sun protection for the toes at school whilst children are playing and running around.

• Parents are expected to provide suitable clothing for school wear on Uniform Free Days – no singlet tops, shoestring straps or halter-tops are appropriate to ensure full protection from the sun. The school will contact parent/guardian if children wear inappropriate clothing in the hot weather and areas of play will be restricted to covered play areas.

• The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the Sunsmart policy.

• Sunsmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.

• Our school is accredited as a Sunsmart school at the Cancer Council of Victoria.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle. The next review is 2015.

*This policy was ratified by School Council on the 22nd August 2012.*