

Sun Smart Policy

Background

Overexposure 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 damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

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 or above.



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Support sun protection behaviours at Huntingdale Primary School to minimise risk of health problems from sun overexposure, including skin cancer.
- Support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV index levels are 3 or above (generally mid-August to the end of April in Victoria).
- 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.
- Ensure the school promotes being sun smart to the community.
- That the school complies with the Department of Education (DE) policies and procedures.
- Adhere to the DET Values of accountability, leadership, respect, impartiality, integrity, human rights, and responsiveness.



Implementation

- The principal has the overall responsibility of implementing this policy but may delegate certain roles to suitably qualified staff.
- This policy applies to all school activities on and off-site, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.
- To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the [SunSmart widget](#) on the school's website, the free [SunSmart app](#), or at sunsmart.com.au.
- If there is extreme hot weather and UV activity, the school may employ a 'hot day' timetable for recess and lunch breaks.
- Huntingdale Primary School has the following measures in place for all outdoor activities during the daily sun protection times to help reduce the risk of over-exposure to UV radiation for staff and students.

Shade

- Huntingdale School provides sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:
 - Shade sail outside the school hall.
 - Shade sail area at the north end of the school (between the portables and main classroom building).
 - Playground areas.
- Students are encouraged to use the available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times.
- They must use these areas if they do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing.
- When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Huntingdale Primary School that may impact on the level of shade available to staff and students, a review of the shaded areas available will be conducted and further shading installed as appropriate.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

- Huntingdale Primary School's dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:
 - Densely woven polyester cotton fabric polo shirt with a collar
 - Polo shirts with long sleeves
 - Longer style shorts, dresses, and skirts
- Huntingdale Primary School's dress code applies on and off-site unless otherwise advised.
- When students are not required to wear school uniform (such as school camps, free dress day), Huntingdale Primary School will ensure steps are taken to encourage students to wear sun-protective clothing whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

Hats

- From mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, all students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck, and ears for all outdoor activities.
- Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the August to April time period, by parent or student choice.
- Students must wear the Huntingdale Primary School broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat that protects the face, head, neck, and ears when outdoors.
- Baseball or peaked caps and sun visors are not considered a suitable alternative, as they do not protect the ears, cheeks, or neck.



- Students who are not wearing the appropriate hat will be asked to use available areas of shade when outdoors or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

- Huntingdale Primary School 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 (or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
- Students and staff are reminded and encouraged to bring their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to school. This allows staff and students who may suffer from skin reactions from certain types of sunscreens, to purchase their own suitable alternative sunscreen.
- Teachers remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

Sunglasses

- Huntingdale Primary School 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. They are supported to understand effects of sun exposure and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school.
- Huntingdale Primary School will address sun protection and UV safety education. Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels. This may occur during the Creating Our Learning Community unit of work, as part of health and physical education or inquiry units.

Staff role-modelling and OHS

- 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.
- The SunSmart policy will be shared as part of staff induction programs and this policy will be in the Key Documents Folder on Google Drive.
- UV radiation exposure is considered as part of our school's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities, i.e., UV radiation protection strategies are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

Staying Hydrated

- Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle each day and have regular water intake, so they do not become dehydrated in hot weather.
- The school has water fountains where students can easily fill up their bottles.

Families and visitors

- Families and visitors participating in and attending outdoor school activities are encouraged 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 when outdoors.



Community engagement

- Sun protection behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, the school website, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student, and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff induction.
- Families, students, and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Huntingdale Primary School may provide information through the newsletter or school assembly.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school’s website.
- Discussed in assembly.
- Included in staff induction processes.
- Included in staff handbook/manual.
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions.
- Reminders in our school newsletter.
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

Further information and resources

- The Department’s Policy and Advisory Library:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Heat Health](#)
 - [Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors](#)
 - [Risk Management – Schools](#)
 - [Shade Sails](#)
 - [Student Dress Code](#)
- [SunSmart](#) and Cancer Council Victoria.
 - [Primary schools](#) free education resources, sample policies and information about the free [SunSmart Schools Program](#).
 - [Secondary schools](#) free education resources and sample policies.
 - [Sunscreen reactions](#).

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s 3-year cycle or as needed to comply with DET policy changes.

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	March 2017 8 May 2020- Principal 2 June Education & Future Directions Sub-committee 3 April 2023- Principal & 2 May Education & Future Directions
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	April 2026