

Sunsmart Policy



Deanside
Primary School

SUNSMART POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the Business Manager.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Deanside Primary School 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 when UV index levels are 3 or above (generally mid-August – end of April)
- 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.

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 or bom.gov.au.

Deanside Primary School has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

Shade

Deanside Primary School will provide sufficient options for shelter to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- play ground has a shade sail structure
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds.

NOTE: As a newly established school the newly planted trees will take some time to grow, therefore little shade protection from trees will be available in early years.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Deanside Primary School that may impact on the level of shading 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

Deanside Primary School's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- 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.

From 1st August to 1st May, 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 1st August to 1st May time period, by parent or student choice.

Staff and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for Deanside Primary School a bucket hat is a required uniform item. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat may be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Deanside 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 according to manufacturer's instructions.

Deanside Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. Teachers will remind students before going outside. Posters will be on display around the school. Reminders to parents will be provided through the school newsletter, Compass and Information Sessions.

Students are encouraged to bring their own supply of sunscreen to school. At Deanside Primary School students are welcome to attend the First Aid room via Reception to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the school on 8080 5444 to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

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 Deanside 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 and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Deanside Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of Health and PE Specialist classes.

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.

Engaging Students, Staff and Families

SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Deanside Primary School may provide families and staff with information through support material offered at enrolment.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library
- [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
- [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)
- [Achievement Program's SunSmart policy](#)

Date: 01/11/21

Date for review: 01/11/25