



Sunsmart Policy

Mooroopna Primary School

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Mooroopna 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 all year
- 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, dehydration, 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 to the 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.

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

Shade

Mooroopna Primary School will provide for sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds.



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When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Mooroopna 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 and hats

Mooroopna 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
- broad brimmed hats
- sunglasses (optional)

When predicted UV levels are 3 and above during the months of September through to the end of April, students must wear a hat at recess and lunch times and when playing outside.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen and wear a hat when outside from September to the end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

Sunscreen

Mooroopna Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily at a minimum from September to the end of April and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if necessary. Mooroopna Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. Mooroopna Primary School students are welcome to access sunscreen in their classrooms. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreens are encouraged to provide their own sunscreen.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Mooroopna Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of Health and Physical Education lessons. Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun smart behaviour and Vitamin D education across the school community.

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

- Available publicly on our school's website (communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions



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- 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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	22/11/2021
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	22/11/2024