

# Sun Protection and heat Policy



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Policy Name	Sun protection and heat Policy	Approved	Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2017
Responsibility		Date last updated	Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2017

**Rationale:**

Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Too much of the sun’s UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Students must be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school. The sun protection times from the Bureau of Meteorology tell you the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types when UV levels reach 3 or higher. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.

**Aims:**

- To increase student and community awareness of skin cancer.
- To assist students to develop strategies which encourage responsible decision-making about sun protection.
- To provide a safe school environment.
- To encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high risk times such as lunch times, sports, camps and excursions.

**Implementation:**

The sun protection measures listed below are used for all outdoor activities **during the daily local sun protection times.**

- 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 or myuv.com.au.
- All staff and students at the school will wear a ‘Sun Protection’ hat, ie. a broad brimmed, legionnaire or a bucket style hat (with a deep crown and brim width of at least 6cm) for all outdoor activities
- Hats worn at school are to be close-weave broad brimmed hats.
- The school will ensure that school uniform broad brimmed hats are available for purchase from the uniform store.
- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirts with collars and elbow-length sleeves, longer dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.
- The school will enforce the rule ‘NO Hat. No Play’ from the beginning of mid-August until the end of April. Students without broad brimmed hats will be restricted to designated shaded areas.
- The school will promote the use of close fitting UV protection wrap-around AS1067 sunglasses by both students and staff.
- Students will be actively encouraged to provide and wear SPF30 (or higher) broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. Sunscreen will be provided in each classroom, and on excursions. Sunscreen will be applied by students 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors, under the supervision of teachers. Sunscreen is reapplied every two hours or more frequently if sweating or swimming.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
- School Council and the Student Representative Council will also investigate the use of close fitting UV protection wrap around AS1067 sun glasses by both students and staff.
- Whenever possible, outside activities on hot days should be scheduled before 11:00 am.
- A SunSmart widget will be accessible on the school’s website to show the daily local sun protection times.
- The School Council will provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable; particularly over high density areas such as eating spaces and passive leisure locations. Temporary shade structures will be erected as events such as swimming and athletic sports.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- School electronic and paper communication will highlight and reinforce the SunSmart policy.
- The Sun protection policy will be accessible on the school website and within the parent handbook.
- SunSmart behaviour and sun protection is an element of the curriculum.
- The school will continue to be a member of the SunSmart School’s and Early Childhood Program at Cancer Council Victoria.
- SunSmart Victoria will be contacted annually to obtain up-to-date information and advice (where is this recorded). A policy review and membership renewal will be completed with SunSmart at least every three years at sunsmart.com.au
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:
  - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
  - apply sunscreen; and
  - seek shade whenever possible.
- The Sun protection policy is to be read in conjunction with the Uniform Policy.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle and/or per local school agreement.

**CERTIFICATION**

This policy was ratified at the School Council Meeting held at Cranbourne South Primary School, on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017

Signed.....  
  
 School Council President

Signed.....  
  
 Principal