

SunSmart Policy

Policy Name	SunSmart Policy	Approved	Wednesday 19 May 2021
Responsibility	First Aid Officer	Date last updated	April 2024

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Cranbourne South 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 skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later 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 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 [SunSmart widget](#) on the school's website, the free [SunSmart app](#), or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au. The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types.

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

Shade:

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

- where students congregate for lunch
- popular play areas/play equipment
- sporting grounds
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Cranbourne South 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:

From mid-August until the end of April, all staff and 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 who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat will be asked to

SunSmart Policy

play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun. Broad brimmed hats are available as part of the school uniform available for purchase. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

Sunscreen

Cranbourne South Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily from mid-August 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 or more frequently if sweating or swimming, according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

Cranbourne South Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors such as reminders from the classroom teachers.

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 Cranbourne South 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. Cranbourne South Primary School may address sun and UV safety education as part of Life Education for all year levels.

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. Resources can be sourced at <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/advice-for/schools-early-childhood/education-resources/primary-school-resources>

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.

SunSmart Schools

The school will continue to be a member of the SunSmart Schools and Early Childhood Program at Cancer Council Victoria.

Further Information and Resources

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

Review Cycle

This policy will be updated every 3 years or as determined by DET review cycle.

Certification


This policy was ratified at the School Council Meeting held at Cranbourne South Primary School, on Wednesday, 19 May 2021.

Signed.....



School Council President

Signed.....



Principal