



## SunSmart Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Fairfield 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 applies 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 the [SunSmart website](#) or the [Bureau of Meteorology](#).

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

#### SHADE

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

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Fairfield 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

Fairfield Primary School recommends that from August to the end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students come to school wearing sun-protective clothing such as:

- 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.

Fairfield 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.

From August through to the end of April:

- All students and staff **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, by parent or student choice.
- Appropriate sun protective hats are broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats.
- Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat are required to and will be reminded to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.
- In some instances, students may wear a different style hat or no hat, due to individual circumstances. This will be communicated as required, with relevant staff.

### SUNSCREEN

Fairfield 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.
- Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen before they go outside and are welcome to attend the First Aid room to access sunscreen during breaks.
- Sunscreen is available in all classrooms and students will be reminded to apply before they eat, to ensure it is effective when they go outside.
- Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the school office 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.

### ENGAGING STUDENTS, STAFF & FAMILIES

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



## Further Information & Resources

- [SunSmart website](#)
- The Department of Education's *Policy and Advisory Library*:
  - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
  - [Duty of Care Policy](#)

## 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 staff handbook/manual.
- Included in transition and enrolment packs.
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions.
- Reminders in our school newsletter.
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

## Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of Fairfield Primary School's 4-year review cycle in October 2026.

## Policy Review & Approval

Policy last reviewed	February 2017
Consultation	Consultation with School Council Policy sub-committee and shared with School Council in October 2022
Approved by	Principal and School Council in October 2022
Next scheduled review date	October 2026