



Sunsmart Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Spensley Street 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 at Spensley Street Primary School.

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 at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

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

- Around the playground area
- Around the grassed area
- Near the canteen and other outdoor spaces used during recess and lunchtime

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Spensley Street 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

Spensley Street Primary School's Dress Code Policy states that sunsmart hats must be worn outdoors in Terms 1 and 4. Other clothing should provide adequate protection from the sun, e.g. clothing should cover shoulders and midriffs.

Spensley Street Primary School recommends that from mid-August to the end of April, and whenever UV level 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 or skirts
- Rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

Sunscreen

Spensley Street 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 the manufacturer's instructions.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Spensley Street Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of our Health and Physical Education curriculum.

Communication

Text here

Further Information & Resources

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

Policy Renew and Approval

<i>Policy last reviewed</i>	<i>November 2020</i>
<i>Approved by</i>	<i>Principal</i>
<i>Next scheduled review date</i>	<i>November 2023</i>