

SUN SMART POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the Parktone Primary School front office.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Parktone 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 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 [SunSmart widget](#) on the school's website, the free [SunSmart app](#), or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

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

- the Inclusion garden
- the Friendship tree garden
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds/pools.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Parktone 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

Parktone Primary School recommends that from September 1st until April 30th 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.

Parktone 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
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

September 1st to April 30th, all 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 September to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Staff and students are to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck, and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket.

Students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck, and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat may be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Parktone 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.

Parktone Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. e.g., Reminder notices in classrooms, sunscreen located at the classroom door and sunscreen monitors.

At Parktone Primary School students are welcome to attend the school sick bay to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreens are encouraged to contact the school First Aid Officer to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

Staff and students are encouraged to bring their own sunscreen if it is known that they suffer from allergic reactions to certain types of sunscreens. If this is the case the staff member or parents of the student are advised to notify the school First Aid Officer.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Parktone Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the health curriculum.

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.

Engaging students, staff, and families

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

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	September 2021
Approved by	Principal / SC Approved
Next scheduled review date	August 2024