



## SUN PROTECTION POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office on 94843949.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support sun protection behaviours at Wales Street Primary School to minimise risk of health problems from sun overexposure, including 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 (1<sup>st</sup> September-1<sup>st</sup> May)
- 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 on and off-site, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

### POLICY

Overexposure 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 damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in 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 day and the year (1<sup>st</sup> September to the 1<sup>st</sup> May in Victoria)
- peaks during school hours.

Sun safety is a shared responsibility and staff, parents, carers and students are encouraged to implement a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels reach 3 or above.

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](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).

Wales Street Primary School has the following measures in place for all outdoor activities during the daily sun protection times to help reduce the risk of over-exposure to UV radiation for staff and students.

### **Shade**

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

- the deck along the oval
- under shade sails
- nature play
- the deck behind the hall

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times, particularly if they do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing.

### **Hats**

From 1st September to 1st May, 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 May time period, by parent/carer or student choice.

Students are required to wear a school hat or a hat that protects the face, head, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat.

Baseball or peaked caps and sun visors are not considered a suitable alternative, as they do not protect the ears, cheeks or neck.

Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or hats will be asked to use available areas of shade when outdoors or a suitable area protected from the sun. We encourage that parents/carers continue to promote sun smart behaviour and this sun protection policy outside of school hours, and in particular the use of shade when appropriate protective clothing or hats are not available.

### **Sunscreen**

- Provision of sunscreen remains the responsibility of parents/carers.
- Wales 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 if outdoors.
- Children will be reminded by their teacher to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

### **Curriculum**

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices. They are supported to understand effects of sun exposure and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school. Wales Street Primary School will address sun protection and UV safety education as part of the teaching and learning program.

### **Staff role-modelling and OHS**

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.

UV radiation exposure is considered as part of our school's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities, i.e. UV radiation protection strategies are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

### **Families and visitors**

Families and visitors participating in and attending outdoor school activities are encouraged to:

- wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
- apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and
- seek shade whenever possible when outdoors.

### **Community engagement**

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

## **COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website and on Compass
- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy (or electronic copy by email) available from school administration upon request.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library:
  - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
  - [Heat Health](#)
  - [Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors](#)
  - [Risk Management – Schools](#)
  - [Shade Sails](#)
  - [Student Dress Code](#)
- [SunSmart](#) and Cancer Council Victoria.
  - [Primary schools](#) free education resources, sample policies and information about the free [SunSmart Schools Program](#)
  - [Sunscreen reactions](#).

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2024
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	May 2028