

OAKLEIGH SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUNSMART POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Oakleigh South Primary School to minimise the risk of Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun that can cause sunburn, skin damage, 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.

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

Shade

Oakleigh 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
- outdoor lesson areas

- popular play areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Oakleigh 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

Oakleigh South Primary School recommends that from mid-August to 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.

Oakleigh South 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 mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, all students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Exceptions will be made for some sporting activities. The school recommends that hats be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the August to April time period, however, this by parent or student choice.

Staff are encouraged 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 will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun. **NO HAT, NO PLAY.**

Sunscreen

Oakleigh South 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](#).

Oakleigh South Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors such as reminder notices on interactive whiteboards.

At Oakleigh South Primary School students are welcome to attend the First Aid room to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the school to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school. Students are also encouraged to bring their own sunscreen to school, which will be stored in the classroom.

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 Oakleigh 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. Oakleigh South Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health and Physical Education 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, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Oakleigh South Primary School may provide families and staff with information through newsletters, noticeboards, school website, Information Booklets, meetings or school assemblies.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS SUNSMART POLICY

Oakleigh South Primary School welcomes feedback from the school community in relation to the SunSmart Policy. If you have a concern or complaint about the SunSmart Policy, further information about raising a concern or complaint is available in our school's *Parent Complaint Policy*, available on the school website.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last reviewed and approved by School Council on May 18, 2021 and is scheduled for review in May 2023.