



Sun Protection Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, or require it in an alternative format, please contact our school administration team.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Streeton 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

Overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause health problems including sunburn, damage to skin and eyes, and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later 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 (highest in Victoria from mid-August – 30 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/intranet, the free [SunSmart app](#), or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

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

- the canteen
- designated eating areas
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds/pools

The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities.

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.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Streeton 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

Streeton Primary School recommends that from mid-August to 30 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.

Streeton 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.

Hats

From mid-August to 30 April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, all staff and 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 August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

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

Baseball or peak caps and 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 a hat will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Streeton Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and students daily from mid-August to the end of April and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

Streeton Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors [for example i.e. reminder notices, newsletter reminders, reminders from teachers].

At Streeton Primary School, if students do not have their own sunscreen they are welcome to attend the school office to access sunscreen.

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

Staff and students who may suffer from skin reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the administration staff to implement a plan to reduce the risk of a sunscreen reaction at school, such as families sending their child to school with a suitable alternative sunscreen.

Sunglasses

Where practical Streeton 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 and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school. Streeton Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of our start of year units of work for all year levels.

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. Resources

can be sourced at <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-schools/resources-schools-early-childhood/primary-school-resources>

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/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Families, students and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Streeton primary School will provide information through our school newsletter, school website and school assemblies.

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
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Duty of care](#)
 - [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](#).

- The [Healthy Schools Achievement Program](#)'s Sun Protection health priority area

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	15/02/2023
Consultation	Consultation with School Council is mandatory 20/02/2023 Other Consultation – Families within the community via our newsletter Staff via staff meetings Cancer Council Victoria
Approved by	School Council - 20/02/2023
Next scheduled review date	Review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years – February 2027