



SUNSMART

POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Richmond Primary School to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

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 free [SunSmart app](#), or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

Richmond 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
- assembly areas

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Richmond 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.

From 1 September to 30 April, all students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities, including recess, lunch, sport, P.E, excursions and camps. 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 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. The school will ensure that a variety of approved Sunsmart hats are available for purchase through the school's uniform supplier.

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. Students without a hat during Physical Education or other outdoor activities will miss these activities.

Sunscreen

Richmond 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](#).

Richmond Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. 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.

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. Richmond Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of classroom activities, newsletters, the school website and school assemblies.

Review Cycle

This policy was last updated on **24th June, 2020** and is scheduled for review in **June 2024**.