



## SUNSMART POLICY

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Footscray City 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 [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).

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



## Shade

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

- the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Footscray City 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

Footscray City 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

Footscray City 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

Commencement of Term 4 to the end of Term 1, 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 commencement of Term 4 to the end of Term 1 time period, by parent or student choice.

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

Footscray City 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](#).

At Footscray City Primary School students are welcome to attend 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.

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

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.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
  - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
  - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)
- [Achievement Program's](#) SunSmart policy [schools will need to register for the program to gain access to these resources]

## REVIEW CYCLE

<b>Date Implemented</b>	July 2019
<b>Author</b>	Jessie Hand
<b>Approved By</b>	School Council
<b>Approval Authority (Signature &amp; Date)</b>	
<b>Date Reviewed</b>	
<b>Responsible for Review</b>	Principal
<b>Review Date</b>	July 2020