



SunSmart

Policy

Policy review team members: Bev Harvey, Kim Wheeler, Donna Wheatley, Jodie Prendergast, John Bothe, Dean Charge, Jane Herring, Kate Eadie, Katanya Barlow, Nathan Goodrick

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 7/9/20

Rationale:

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Mt Eliza Primary School to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

Aims:

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.

Implementation:

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/carers 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.

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

Shade

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

- play areas with shade sails
- where students congregate to eat
- the canteen is under cover of a verandah
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly area is inside
- sporting grounds has a sheltered area

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Mt Eliza 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

Mt Eliza 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.

Mt Eliza 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 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. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Staff are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example a broad-brimmed hat.

Students are required to wear a broad-brimmed school hat that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors. 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

Mt Eliza 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. They are to provide their own Sunscreen that should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

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. Mt Eliza Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health 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.

Resources:

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

Evaluation:

The School Council and staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy (at least once every two years).

School Council President: Dean Charge
Signature:

Date: 7/9/20