

Sun Protection

Rationale: This policy has been developed as part of our commitment to a safe school environment, to reduce the risk to students and staff of exposure to UV radiation from the sun.

Objective

The objectives of this sun protection policy are to:

- increase student and whole-school awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by exposure to UV radiation
- work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for the entire school community
- encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's sun protection policy.
- ensure that all children in attendance at Melton Primary have some sun exposure to help with Vitamin D and are protected from skin damage caused by the overexposure to harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun. Programs and this policy will be implemented from mid-August to the end of April.
- endeavour to increase Sun Smart knowledge and improve skin protection in the general school population through the implementation of the following strategies:

Implementation

Forms of protection (covering clothing, sunscreen, school hat, sunglasses and shade) will be implemented from mid-August until the end of April, as this is when UV levels are high enough (3 and above) to damage the skin and lead to skin cancer. (Sun Smart recommendations are for all children of all skin types to use these forms of protection). Other forms of protection (curriculum and professional development for staff) are ongoing and will therefore be implemented at various times throughout the year.

Clothing

From mid-August to the end of April children will wear the summer school uniform hat so as to provide sun protection for the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside

(recesses, lunch, P.E. classes, sport activities, excursions, outdoor assemblies etc). The Melton Primary School summer school hat is a navy blue broad-brimmed or legionnaire style hat. Children who do not wear a school uniform hat during recesses and lunch breaks will be sat under the front veranda of the school gymnasium.

To participate in outdoor excursions, sports activities etc. from mid-August to the end of April students must wear a school uniform hat. If students do not have a school uniform hat they will not be permitted to attend these outdoor activities.

Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform/dress code and sports uniform in the following ways:

Students are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (i.e. broad brimmed or bucket hats), whenever they are outside. (Staff are also required to do so.) Rash vests or T-shirts are compulsory for outdoor swimming, when students are waiting to compete. Students and staff are encouraged 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.

Sunscreen

SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is available for staff and students' use and students are encouraged to bring their own sunscreen to school. Staff should encourage students to use sunscreen and provide time for students to apply sunscreen before going outside. The school community is educated about the correct use of sunscreen and the level of protection it provides.

Melton Primary School strongly recommends that children are provided with SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen from home and we seek support from parents in educating their children in Sun Smart strategies.

Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).

Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours or more frequently if sweating or swimming.

Scheduling

This policy is considered in the planning of all outdoor events such as assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events. Where possible, outdoor activities/events will be organised in shaded areas wherever possible.

Role modelling

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role modelling, staff are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when outside. Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor activities.

Shade

Melton Primary School Council ensures that shade is available in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate – for example, lunch areas, canteen, outdoor lesson areas. The school council ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds. Processes for the planning of outdoor activities and excursions include the consideration of shade.

Organised outdoor activities to be held in areas of shade where possible.

Melton Primary School Council will continue to work towards increasing the number of shelters and trees so as to provide adequate shade in the school grounds.

Curriculum

Sun protection and educational programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the school curriculum. Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community. Sun protective behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through a variety of channels such as newsletters, staff meetings and school assemblies.

Melton Primary School will display appropriate posters and messages pertaining to Sun Smart messages; continuing the education process.

Melton Primary School will utilise such resources as provided by the Cancer Council Victoria

Melton Primary School will ensure that this policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events. (eg. Camps, excursions, sporting events)

School Obligation

School staff have a duty of care and obligations under the [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 \(Vic\)](#) to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to minimise the risks to both staff and student health and safety arising from exposure to UV. These obligations can be met by:

- developing a local Sun Protection Policy that includes evidence-informed sun protection strategies. A local [Sun Protection Policy template](#) is available on the [School Policy Templates Portal](#) (staff login required) for schools to modify to suit their local circumstances
- providing adequate shade
- adopting student uniform or dress codes which include sun-protective clothing using hats, sunglasses and sunscreen
- staff role-modelling personal sun-protection behaviours
- engaging directly with students, staff and families to support sun protection strategies and behaviours.

During the daily local sun protection times (those times when UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher, refer to the sun protection times section on this page) all staff and students should follow the sun protection measures listed in this policy.

Occupational health and safety (OHS) risk controls should consider the school environment including:

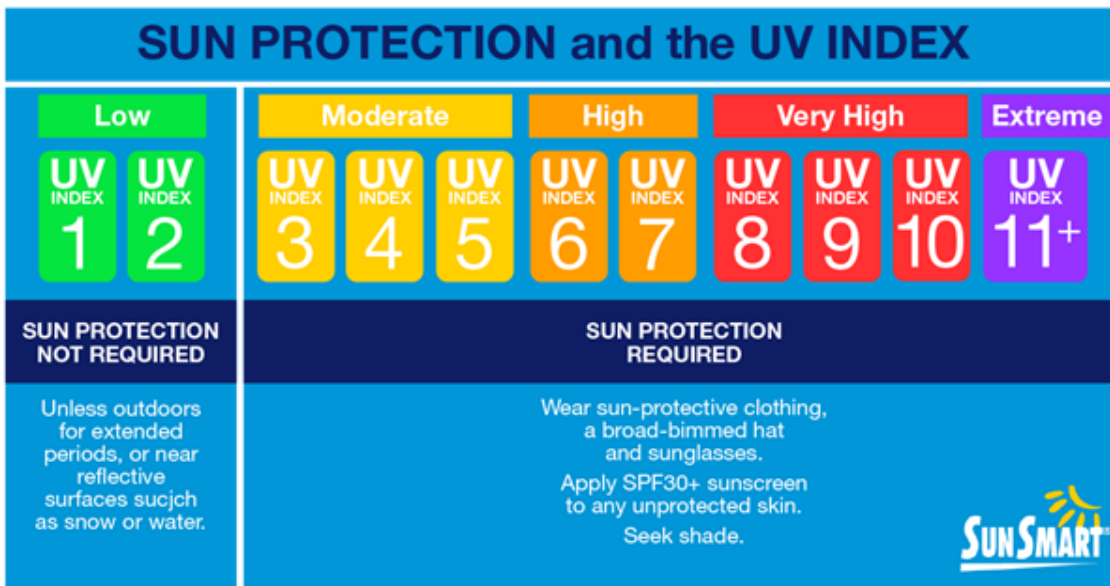
- creating shade
- modifying highly reflective surfaces
- higher risk times in Victoria between mid-August to the end of April (inclusive)

- outdoor programming schedules
- dress codes.

UV radiation exposure should be considered as part of the school's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities. For example, UV radiation protection strategies are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days, swimming carnivals and interschool sports events. For more information on risk management for outdoor activities and events refer to:

- [Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors](#)
- [Excursions](#)

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School Review and approval

Policy last reviewed	16th August 2023
Approved by	Principal and School Council
Next scheduled review date	March 2026