



McKinnon Primary School

SunSmart Policy

1. Purpose:

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

1.1.1. This policy provides guidelines to:

- 1.1.1.1. 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)
- 1.1.1.2. ensure that there are outdoor environments that provide adequate shade for students and staff
- 1.1.1.3. ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection
- 1.1.1.4. 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.

2. Scope

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

3. Policy

3.1. 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.

3.2. UV radiation:

- 3.2.1. cannot be seen or felt
- 3.2.2. can be reflected off surfaces such as buildings, asphalt, concrete, water, sand and snow
- 3.2.3. can pass through light clouds
- 3.2.4. varies in intensity across the year (highest in Victoria from mid-August – end of April)
- 3.2.5. peaks during school hours.

3.3. 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 www.sunsmart.com.au or www.bom.gov.au

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

3.5. Shade

3.5.1 McKinnon 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 and popular play areas.

3.5.2 When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at McKinnon 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.

3.6 Sun protective uniform/clothing

3.6.1 McKinnon Primary School's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- 3.6.1.1 loose, cool, closely woven fabric
- 3.6.1.2 shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- 3.6.1.3 tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- 3.6.1.4 longer style shorts and skirts

3.6.2 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.

3.6.3 McKinnon Primary School staff and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed.



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3.6.4 McKinnon Primary School 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.

3.7 Sunscreen

3.7.1 McKinnon 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](#).

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

3.7.3 McKinnon Primary School students are welcome to attend first aid room to access sunscreen.

3.7.4 Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the first aid officer to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

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

3.7 Curriculum

3.7.1 Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. McKinnon Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of various units of inquiry.

3.7.2 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.

3.8 Engaging students, staff and families

3.8.1 SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, Compass, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

3.8.2 Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Example School may provide families and staff with information through communication strategies i.e. newsletters, Compass and school assemblies.

4. Communication

4.1. This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

4.1.1. Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)

4.1.2. Included in staff handbook/manual

4.1.3. Reminders in our school newsletter

4.1.4. Discussed in student forums

4.1.5. Hard copy available from school administration upon request

5. Further Information and Resources:

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



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- [SunSmart](#)
- [Achievement Program](#)'s SunSmart policy

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The section states the time period that School Council will conduct a review of the Policy; either annually or every 3 years as determined by School Council or DET guidelines.

All policies will be available to the community via the Compass portal.

REVISION AND APPROVAL HISTORY

The section records the history and review of each policy.

Date	Reviewed by	Description of outcome	Council Approval date
April 2016	Policy	Approved	April 2016
18 th March 2019	Education	Approved	18 th March 2019
7 th June 2022	Education	Approved	20 th June, 2022
20 th June, 2022	School Council	Approved	20 th June, 2022