



SUNSMART POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Creswick 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 - Term One and towards the end of Term 3)
- 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 (generally mid-August – end of April - Term One and towards the end of Term 3)

Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

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

- courtyard
- the canteen
- popular play areas
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Creswick 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

Creswick Primary School recommends that from mid-September to end of April – Term One and Term Four, 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.

Creswick 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 Day One of Term Four (exact date to be set by the school annually) to last Day of Term One, 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 and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket.

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

Creswick 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.

Creswick Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors [for example i.e. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, reminder announcements]

Creswick Primary School students are welcome to attend the first aid room to access sunscreen and there will also be sunscreen available in each classroom. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the principal 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. Creswick Primary School will address sun and UV safety education through part of the Curriculum of Health and Physical Education Lessons.

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

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

- [REVIEW CYCLE](#)

This policy was last reviewed and updated on September 2020 and is scheduled for review on September 2024.