SOUTH YARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL
SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the office either by phone or email.
Email: south.yarra.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 9866 3424

PURPOSE
The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at South Yarra 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, on and off-site, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

POLICY
Overexposure 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 damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.
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 the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.
South Yarra Primary School has the following measures in place for all outdoor activities during the daily sun protection times to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

Shade

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

- where students congregate for lunch
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds/pools.

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times, particularly if they do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing.
When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at South Yarra 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

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

- loose, cool, densely-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 and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed or bucket.

Students are required to wear a school hat 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 will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

South Yarra Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF50 (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 South Yarra Primary School has strategies in place to remind students that they are welcome to apply sunscreen provided in the classroom prior to breaks. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to bring their own suitable sunscreen from home.

Sunscreen that is supplied by the school is stored below 30 degrees and the expiry date monitored.
Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 50 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

Sunglasses

Where practical, South Yarra Primary School students and staff engaged in outdoor activities may 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.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices. They are supported to understand the effects of sun exposure and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school, including the benefits and risks of sun exposure. South Yarra Primary School will address sun protection and UV safety education as part of the Victorian Health and Physical Education 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.

Engaging students, staff and families

SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation. Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. South Yarra Primary School may provide families and staff with information through the school's Compass portal.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library:

- Sun and UV Protection Policy
- Heat Health
- Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors
- Risk Management – Schools
- Shade Sails
- Student Dress Code

SunSmart and Cancer Council Victoria.

- Primary schools free education resources, sample policies and information about the free SunSmart Schools Program.
- Secondary schools free education resources and sample policies.
- Sunscreen reactions.
- The Healthy Schools Achievement Program's Sun Protection health priority area

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Endorsed on	April 2025	
Endorsed by	The Principal and School Council	
Next review date	April 2028	