



SUNSMART POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Plenty Parklands 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 (start of September – 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, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students, staff and parents when in a volunteer role.

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 start of September – 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 SunSmart widget on the school's website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

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

- the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas/playgrounds
- assembly areas
- sports ground

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Plenty Parklands 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 1 September 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 September to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Plenty Parklands Primary School implements a **NO HAT NO PLAY** rule for students who are not wearing an appropriate sun protect hat. At recess and lunchtime, students without a hat sit outside the library in the shade under the covered way. **NO hat, NO play, NO fun today.**

Request staff and parents act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviour - staff to wear hats whenever they are outside. Staff are asked not to wear string tops or singlets (refer to Staff Dress Code Policy).

Sunscreen

Plenty Parklands 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](#).

We ask families to model SunSmart behaviour and they are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

While the school does not supply sunscreen sport staff have sunscreen available for self application prior to physical education lessons.

Sunglasses

Where practical Plenty Parklands Primary School encourages students and staff engaged in outdoor activities 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.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Plenty Parklands 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.

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.

The SunSmart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (i.e. camps, excursions, sporting events).

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
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2021
Consultation	Leadership School Council
Approved	December 2021
Next scheduled review date	October 2023