



SunSmart Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Streeton 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, 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 skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later 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 – 30 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. The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of date UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. **At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types.**

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

Shade

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

- the canteen
- designated eating areas
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds/pools

The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities.

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Streeton 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

Streeton Primary School recommends that from mid-August to 30 April, 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.

Streeton 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 the start of Spring to the end of Autumn, all staff and 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 this 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. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

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 will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Streeton Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily from the start of Spring to the end of Autumn and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

Streeton Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors [for example i.e. reminder notices, newsletter reminders, reminders from teachers].

At Streeton Primary School students are welcome to attend the school office to access sunscreen.

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

Sunglasses

Where practical Streeton 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. Streeton Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of our start of year units of work for all year levels.

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. Resources can be sourced at <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-schools/resources-schools-early-childhood/primary-school-resources>

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in August 2020 and is scheduled for review in August 2024.