



# SUNSMART

School Policy and Advisory Guide Reference: <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/Pages/spag.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/Pages/spag.aspx</a>	Last updated 10/8/2020
Endorsed by Wodonga Primary School Council	10/8/2020
Origin	DET
Line Manager	D. Duncan
Effective Date	August 2020
Review Date	August 2023

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Wodonga Primary School to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage, and skin cancer due to natural UV exposure.

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 sports, 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 (typically from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria). Information about the daily local sun protection times is available at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/uv/index.shtmlwww.bom.gov.au>



## Reducing Exposure

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

### Shade

Wodonga Primary School will provide sufficient options for shelter including trees in order to provide shade on the school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- Junior and Senior playground equipment on ovals – shade sail coverage
- Junior and Senior eating areas – shade sail coverage
- Canteen queueing area - verandah
- Outdoor lesson areas – covered walkways and planted trees near classrooms
- popular play areas including the Courtyard - shade sail coverage

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Wodonga 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

Wodonga 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 sleeved options
- longer style shorts, dresses and skirts

In Term 1 and Term 4, all students **must** wear a sun protective Wodonga Primary School wide brimmed hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. 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. Students may also wear hats in Term 2 and Term 3 for outside activities by parent or student choice.

### Sunscreen

Wodonga 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](#).

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

Families are encouraged to reinforce daily routines of applying sunscreen prior to attending school. Parents are welcome to providing sunscreen for students (in their bags) for reapplication during the day. Staff will encourage and remind students to reapply sunscreen prior to breaks and sport etc.

## Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Wodonga Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of our Health Curriculum lessons across all year levels.



## Wodonga Primary School No. 37 - Policy

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](#)

### Evaluation & Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.