

**Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Kensington Primary School.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Kensington 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 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 via the SunSmart widget on the school's website.

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

**Shade**

KPS will continue to develop sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds.

**Sun protective uniform/clothing**

Kensington 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 Term 4 to the end of Term 1, all students and staff **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Hat styles include 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.

Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities in Term 2 and Term 3, by parent or student choice.

### **Sunscreen**

Kensington 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](#).

Parents will be reminded in the school newsletter and via Compass of the need to ensure that students are wearing SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen to school during September through to April or whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Students should also be reminded to bring their own SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen to sports and other events where they will be spending significant time outdoors where appropriate.

Kensington Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outside, for example, teacher reminders and timely announcements over the PA.

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 Kensington 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).

### **Curriculum**

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Kensington Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health and PE curriculum and through the implementation of classroom Units of Inquiry.

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 reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff Bulletin & Compass, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

## **COMMUNICATION**

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

- Available on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at parent information sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- 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**

The recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years.

<b>Policy last reviewed</b>	September 2022
<b>Approved by</b>	School Council September 12 <sup>th</sup> 2022
<b>Next scheduled review date</b>	September 2026