



SUN PROTECTION Policy

Mornington Park Primary School 5040

POLICY DATE: July 2021

STATUS: Approved by School Council on August 2021

“Victorian government schools are child safe environments. Our schools actively promote the safety and wellbeing of all students, and all school staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm in the school environment in accordance with their legal obligations including the Child Safe Standards. Mornington Park Primary School’s (The school’s) Child Safety Code is available on the school’s website.”

Rationale:

Leadership and staff acknowledge the impact that over-exposure to the sun’s ultraviolet (UV) radiation has on health. This policy confirms our commitment to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- ensuring that families and new staff are informed of the school’s sun protection measures
- support duty of care requirements; and
- support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

As a health promoting school, we will support the sun protection of students, staff and families through learning, policies, creating a safe and healthy physical and social environment, and developing community links and partnerships.

Background

Too much of the sun’s UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage, and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70. A combination of sun protection measures is needed for all outdoor activities from mid-August to the end of April and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above – the level at which damage to skin and eyes can occur.

Whole school engagement

It is recognised that every member of Mornington Park PS has an impact on students' health and can contribute to creating an environment that promotes safe UV exposure. All members of our school community including staff, students, families and volunteers will be supported to meet this policy.

Definitions

Sun protection: For the purposes of this policy and for the Healthy Schools Achievement Program, the 'Sun Protection' health priority area focuses on the creation of environments and behaviours that will prevent over-exposure to UV radiation.

UV radiation: Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is a type of energy produced by the sun and some artificial sources, such as solariums. Too much UV radiation can cause skin and eye damage, sunburn, tanning and [skin cancer](#). Some UV exposure is recommended for vitamin D. UV radiation isn't like the sun's light or heat, which we can see and feel. Your senses cannot detect UV radiation, so you won't notice the damage until it has been done.

Implementation:

- The sun protection measures listed below are used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times. Staff are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au or the free SunSmart app to assist with the implementation of this policy. The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.

Leadership and commitment

- Staff, families and students are active participants in the development and implementation of the whole school Sun Protection Policy and are seen as key partners in promoting and supporting safe UV exposure in the school.
- Staff, families and students are provided with information about policy requirements, with opportunities to provide feedback and input.

Healthy physical environment

Shade

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The facilities committee makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. eating areas, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.

- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- In consultation with the facilities committee, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in a designated suitable area protected from the sun.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.

Healthy culture

Clothing

- The dress code for students and staff follows the sun protection Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars, long length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts. Students are required to wear rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.
- On free dress or dress up days, students are not permitted to wear singlet style tops or short shorts, skirts or dresses.
- Diversity and cultural practices are considered when implementing this policy and sun protection practices.
- Sun protective behaviours are regularly reinforced and promoted.

Hats

- All students are required to wear broad brimmed hats that protect their face, neck and ears whenever they are outside during Terms 1 & 4. This includes when on excursions, camps or sporting events. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.
- It is an expectation that students will have their hat at school at all times. Students without a hat at school in terms 1 & 4 will have to play under the shelter between the two main buildings.

Sunglasses [OPTIONAL]

- Students 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.

Sunscreen

- Parents are encouraged to provide SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for their children so that they can apply it throughout the day or as needed.
- Sunscreen should be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (which state to apply at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors).

- Families and visitors are encouraged to wear clothing, sunscreen and hats that follow sun protection guidelines (e.g. wearing a legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket hat when outside).

Student teaching and learning

- Age-appropriate sun protection education is provided about:
 - sun protective behaviours
 - UV radiation
 - health risks associated with UV exposure.
- Staff have access to professional development and teaching resources about sun protection education.

Supported staff

- Staff are supported to follow sun protective behaviours.
- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff:
 - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses
 - apply sunscreen, and
 - seek shade whenever possible.
- Sun protection information is provided to staff, including information about:
 - sun protective behaviours
 - UV radiation
 - health risks associated with UV exposure
 - early detection of skin cancer.
- Sun protection information and policy is saved to our shared staff drive / folder. Staff receive access to this drive during the orientation/induction process.

Staff OHS and Role modelling

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, when the UV is 3 and above staff are encouraged to:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible

Families and community partnerships

- Sun protection information is provided to families, such as information about sun protective behaviours, UV radiation and health risks associated with UV exposure.
- Partnerships are established with relevant organisations and health professionals to support sun protection practices as appropriate.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, and on student enrolment.

Relevant legislation and policy documents / links

- DET School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) [Sun & UV protection](#) (2016)
- DET [The Compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian government school education](#): Principle 3 (2012)
- DET [OHSMS Implementation Guide](#) (2009)
- DET [Building Quality Standards Handbook](#) (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas
- DET [Guidelines for School Playgrounds](#) –Playground safety management: Section 3.2.5 (2012)
- DET [Outdoor activities](#)
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) [Your Child’s Health Wellbeing and Safety](#) (Primary)
- Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) [Managing a school – Health & Safety Compliance Framework: OHS >Sun Protection](#)
- [My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia](#) (2011)
- [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework](#) (VEYLDF) (May 2016)
- Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) [The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#) - Principle 3.2
- [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers](#) (APST) – Standard 4.4 and 7.2
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into [Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools –Final Report](#)
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 2604:2012 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: [4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product](#)
- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.6.2.1: General considerations, 6.3.9: Shade and sun protection, Appendix A: Shade and sun protection
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun Protection for Outdoor Workers](#) (2016)
- [SunSmart website](#)

Legislation and Standards

- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#): Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

Related school policies

- Uniform Policy

Monitoring and review

This Sun Protection Policy will be monitored and reviewed by the staff, school council, student representatives and the health and wellbeing team at least once every three years.

Endorsed by school council: _____

Date: _____

Next review date: July 2024

