



# OAKLEIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SUNSMART POLICY

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Oakleigh 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, the free SunSmart app, or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).

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

## Shade

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

- popular play areas such as sandpit and playground equipment
- some sport courts.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Oakleigh 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

Oakleigh 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 skorts
- (rash vests or t-shirts are recommended for outdoor swimming activities)

From mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, all students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. At Oakleigh Primary School only broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats are endorsed as part of the school uniform. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Students who are not wearing a hat may be asked to remain and play in a designated shaded area or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Staff are required to model good SunSmart practices and wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when engaged in outdoor activities and on yard duty.

## Sunscreen

Oakleigh Primary School encourages all staff and students to self-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 students are encouraged to bring their own supply of sunscreen.

A low-allergenic sunscreen is kept in the First Aid room, as well in all school camp kits and excursions first aid kits.

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 Oakleigh Primary School would encourage 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. Oakleigh Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health Curriculum – Personal, Social and Community Health/Being healthy, safe and active.

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 regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through school and grade newsletters, school website, staff meetings, school assemblies and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

The school also encourages ‘parent helpers’ attending excursions to model SunSmart practices.

## COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school’s website
- Reminders in our newsletters
- Available in Oakleigh Staff Shared Google Drive
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- 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

Policy last reviewed	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	2024