



SUNSMART POLICY

This policy has been developed by members of School Council.

Date written:	2010	Date reviewed:	May 2024
School Council Ratified:	Nov 2015	Next review:	2028

Reviewed in line with DET Template

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Rosanna Primary School to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- develop an awareness of the dangers of exposure to the sun and the need for protective measures.
- develop positive attitudes and responsible behaviours towards skin protection.
- 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 STATEMENT

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

We recognise that:

- 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).
- During these months, students are required to wear school hats which protect the face, neck and ears whilst outside.
- Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.
- Students will be encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor play activities.
- Students will be presented with class programs on skin protection and vitamin D.
- The Sun Smart Policy will be regularly reinforced in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings and student and teacher activities.
- Outdoor activities will be held in areas of shade whenever possible.
- Whole school assemblies may be held indoors whenever UV levels reach 3 or higher.
- Staff will be encouraged to act as role models by practising Sun Smart behaviour.
- During school activities, SunSmart measures will be included in risk management considerations. This applies to excursions, cross-country events, and other activities, regardless of whether they fall within the designated hat period.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

Shade

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

- where students congregate for lunch
- near canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas

School Council will work towards increasing and/or maintaining shade, particularly in areas where students congregate.

Students will be directed to play in shaded areas if they do not have their hats with them. This supports a 'no hat-no play' policy.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Rosanna 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

Rosanna's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar
- tops with long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts

Parents will be required to purchase a school hat for their child's use.

Students will be encouraged to wear appropriate clothing during outdoor school activities.
E.g wearing a T-shirt over bathers at swimming sports

Sunscreen

- Rosanna 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](#).
- Rosanna Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors [for example i.e. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies].
- Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

Curriculum

- Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure.

Staff role-modelling and OHS

- 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.
- UV radiation exposure is considered as part of our school's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities, i.e. UV radiation protection strategies are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

Engaging students, staff and families

- Families and visitors participating in and attending outdoor school activities are encouraged to:
 - wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
 - apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and
 - seek shade whenever possible when outdoors.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

- Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Rosanna Primary School may provide families and staff with information through Compass notifications, newsletters, school website, or school assemblies.

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

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

REFERENCES

RELATED DOCUMENTS

[SunSmart and Cancer Council Victoria.](#)

- [Primary schools free education resources, sample policies and information about the free SunSmart Schools Program.](#)
- [Secondary schools free education resources and sample policies.](#)
- [Sunscreen reactions.](#)

Policy

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Heat Health](#)
 - [Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors](#)
 - [Risk Management – Schools](#)
 - [Shade Sails](#)
 - [Student Dress Code](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The Rosanna Primary School Sunsmart Policy will be reviewed as per School Council Policy. School Council will evaluate its relevance in line with DET guidelines and community expectations as represented by parent members on School Council.

Policy last reviewed	May 2024
Approved by	Principal and Education Sub Committee
Next scheduled review date	2028