

SUNSMART POLICY - Newtown Primary School

Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Newtown 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 free SunSmart app or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au. Newtown Primary School has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students. Shade Newtown Primary School will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as: • the canteen and adjoining windlock areas • The Prep courtyard

- the playground
- sandpits
- The outdoor classroom
- popular play areas
- assembly areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Newtown 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.

In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Newtown 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

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.

Staff and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat may be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Newtown 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 throughout the day according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

Newtown Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact their child's teacher to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school. Students are not permitted to share sunscreen. Staff are also unable to assist students with applying sunscreen.

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. Newtown Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of our Learning to Learn program at the start of the year. SunSmart practices may also be promoted through Health/Physical Education lessons or when participating in the Life Education program. 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 newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.
Further Information and Resources	Sun and UV Protection Policy Duty of care SunSmart
Review Cycle	<i>This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle.</i>
<i>This policy was ratified by school council : 16 June, 2020</i>	