



SunSmart Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Kew 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 (usually from 1st September – 30th 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 1st September – 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](https://www.sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](https://www.bom.gov.au).

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

Shade

Kew 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
- the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Kew 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

Kew Primary School recommends that from 1st September – 30th April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students come to school wearing sun-protective clothing such as:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

Kew 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
- longer style shorts and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

From mid-August to 30 April, all students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. 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 appropriate protective clothing or a hat may be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun:

- In the shelter shed
- Under cover in front of the library
- Under the peppercorn tree

Sunscreen

Kew 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](#).

Kew Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors for example teachers reminding the students, reminder notices and newsletters.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

Engaging students, staff and families

SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy Advisory Library:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This SunSmart Policy was reviewed by the Policy, Education and Communication Sub-Committee in July 2020 and ratified by School Council November 2020.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle or if guidelines change.