



# Sun Protection Policy

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Langwarrin 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](https://www.sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](https://www.bom.gov.au).

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

### **Shade**

Langwarrin 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/pools.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Langwarrin 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**

Langwarrin 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
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

From September 1st to 30 April, all staff and students must wear a sun protective hat (broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket) that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun. Sun protective hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

### **Sunscreen**

Langwarrin 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.

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

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, Langwarrin Primary School encourages 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.

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.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Langwarrin Primary School may provide families and staff with information through school newsletters or the school Facebook page.

### **COMMUNICATION**

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- 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
  - Achievement Program's SunSmart policy

### **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

<b>Policy last reviewed</b>	November 2022
<b>Approved by</b>	School Council
<b>Next scheduled review date</b>	November 2026
<b>Is it compulsory for all Victorian government schools to have a policy addressing this issue?</b>	No, this school policy is optional.
<b>Does this policy have to be approved by School Council?</b>	Yes, for any aspect of your SunSmart policy that involves uniform/dress code (e.g. hats). Given School Council will be approving any uniform aspects of the policy, it is recommended that the whole policy be approved by School Council.
<b>Is school community consultation required for</b>	School Council should be consulted and its views should be taken into account when you adopt this policy, as the sections in this template that

<b>this policy?</b>	are marked in yellow should be tailored to your school community.
<b>What is the basis of this policy?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Department’s Policy and Advisory Library: Sun and UV Protection</li> <li>● Common law duty of care</li> </ul>
<b>Mandatory review cycle</b>	3 - 4 years



**Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school on 9789 7346.