

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Hamilton North 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 in Term 1 and Term 4 or when the UV Index levels are higher than normal.
- 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.

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

Shade

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

- playground play area
- assembly and gathering area
- covered walkways between buildings

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Hamilton North 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

Hamilton North Primary School recommends that during Term 1 and Term 4 students come to school wearing sun-protective clothing such as:

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

From commencement of Term 4 until completion of Term 1 the following year, all students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside during Term 1 and Term 4, by parent or student choice.

Staff and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket.

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

Hamilton North Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors [i.e. reminder notices, newsletters and regular school announcements].

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. Hamilton North Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of PE and Integrated studies lessons.

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.

Further information and resources

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)
- [Achievement Program's SunSmart policy](#)

Office Use Only			
Previous Review Date			
Current Review Date	August 2020	Ratified by School Council	August 2020
Scheduled Review Date	August 2023		

