

SunSmart Policy



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Pakenham 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.

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

Shade

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

- In the covered areas outside Learning Communities
- Under the shade of the trees in the courtyard
- Out the front of the PAPE

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Pakenham 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

Pakenham Primary School's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- polo shirts with a collar
- tops with long sleeves
- Broad brimmed hat

From mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, all Staff and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed. 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.

Sunscreen

Pakenham 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](#).

Pakenham 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].

At Pakenham Primary School students are welcome to attend First Aid room or Gymnasium (during PE sessions) to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the school to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

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 Pakenham 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. Pakenham Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the health curriculum.

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 education of students and communication with families and students.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Pakenham Primary School may provide families and staff with information through Compass.

Further information and resources

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

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every 4 years by School Council to confirm/enhance internal control procedures.

Proposed amendments to this policy will be discussed with relevant staff and School Council if applicable.

Approved Date	School Council President	School Principal
12th November 2019	Name: <i>Amy Dubocanin</i>	Name: Gail Butterworth
	Signed: <i>[Signature]</i>	Signed: <i>Gail Butterworth</i>

Review cycle

This policy was last updated in November 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2022.

Version	Date	Modification	Modified By
Draft	August 2019	Edited template for Pakenham Primary School	Rachael Kimber
Draft	October 2019	Consultation with Student VAL group.	Student VAL
Version 1	November 2019	Consultation with Policy Sub-committee	Rachael Kimber

