



SunSmart Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage sun protection behaviours at Beveridge Primary School that help to minimise the risk of skin cancer.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- Ensure all staff and students are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation
- support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV levels are 3 or higher (Term 1 and Term 4)
- 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 can cause health problems including sunburn, dehydration, damage to skin and eyes, and an increased risk of skin cancer.

To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the SunSmart widget on the school's website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au.

The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are to reach 3 or higher.

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 September - April)
- peaks during school hours

A combination of sun protection measures should be put in place from mid-August to the end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

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

- Under cover basketball court timetabled usage in extreme conditions
- All students must wear a SunSmart approved hat to protect their face, ears and neck
- Students are asked to wear sun protection

Beveridge Primary School will provide for sufficient options for shelter to provide shade on school grounds, on the covered basketball court.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Example 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.

The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Beveridge Primary School recommends that during the whole duration of term 1 and term 4, students wear sun-protective clothing such as:

- 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.

Staff and students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Students who may not be wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Beveridge Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily at a minimum during term 1 and term 4, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours or more if frequently sweating or swimming.

Beveridge Primary School will implement strategies to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors [for example i.e. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors].

At Beveridge Primary School students are welcome to attend first aid to access sunscreen if they have presented staff with a note of authorisation signed by the child's parent or guardian. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to bring in their own sunscreen 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 from September to the end of April or whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

Curriculum

Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun smart behaviour and Vitamin D education across the school community.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety and Vitamin D education at school and at home. Beveridge Primary School may provide families and staff with information through newsletters, noticeboards, school Facebook page and school assemblies.

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:

- wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
- apply sunscreen; and
- seek shade whenever possible

COMMUNICATION

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

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The following school policies are also relevant to this SunSmart Policy:

- Heat Health
- Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors
- Risk Management – Schools
- Shade Sails
- Student Dress Code

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Updated	Due For review
June 2023	