

Sun Protection Policy 2025

1. RATIONALE

Overexposure 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 damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. 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 day and the year (highest from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria)
- 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 or above. Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the SunSmart widget on the school's website/intranet, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

This policy applies to all school activities on and off-site, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 To support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV index levels are 3 or above (generally mid-August to the end of April in Victoria)
- 2.2 To ensure that there are outdoor environments that provide adequate shade for students and staff.
- 2.3 To ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection.
- 2.4 To 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.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

Templestowe Park Primary School has the following measures in place for all outdoor activities during the daily sun protection times to help reduce the risk of over-exposure to UV radiation for staff and students. On occasions of extreme heat during outside break times, students will remain in classrooms.

3.1 **Shade**

Templestowe Park Primary School provides sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- student playgrounds
- the canteen
- outdoor learning areas
- assembly area.

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times, particularly if they do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Templestowe Park PS that may impact on the level of shade available to staff and students, a review of the shaded areas available will be conducted and further shading installed as appropriate.

3.2 **Sun protective uniform/clothing**

Templestowe Park Primary School's uniform or dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, densely woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts, dresses and skirts
- sun protective hats.

Templestowe Park's uniform or dress code applies on and off-site unless otherwise advised. When students are not required to wear school uniform (such as school camps, free dress day), TPPS will ensure steps are taken to encourage students to wear sun-protective clothing whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

3.3 **Hats**

From mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, 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 of the August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Students wear a school hat or a hat that protects the face, head, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed or legionnaire hat. Baseball or peaked caps and sun visors are not considered a suitable alternative, as they do not protect the ears, cheeks or neck.

Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or hats will be asked to use available areas of shade when outdoors or a suitable area protected from the sun.

3.4 **Sunscreen**

Students and staff are reminded and encouraged to bring their own SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to school. All staff and students are encouraged to apply SPF50 or SPF50+ 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 (or more frequently if sweating or swimming).

TPPS has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors, for example, teacher reminders and whole school announcements over the public address system.

3.5 **Sunglasses**

Where practical, TPPS 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.

3.6 **Staff role-modelling and OHS**

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.

UV radiation exposure is considered as part of our school's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities, i.e. UV radiation protection strategies are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

3.7 **Community engagement**

Sun protection behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, the school website, staff meetings and school assemblies. Families, students and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school via the school newsletter and school assemblies.

4. **COMMUNICATION**

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Available to the school community on our school management system, Compass
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

5. **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library:

- [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
- [Heat Health](#)
- [Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors](#)
- [Risk Management – Schools](#)
- [Shade Sails](#)
- [Student Dress Code](#)

[SunSmart](#) and Cancer Council Victoria.

- [Primary schools](#) free education resources, sample policies and information about the free [SunSmart Schools Program](#).

6. EVALUATION

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