

SUN SMART POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Roslyn Primary School

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Roslyn 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

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 free [SunSmart app](#), or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

Roslyn 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.

Shade

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

- The junior and senior playground areas
- The sand pit
- Grass area outside of MPR

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Roslyn 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

Roslyn 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

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, legionnaire or bucket 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 the sheltered area.

Sunscreen

Roslyn 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 (or more frequently if sweating or swimming).

Roslyn Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors with verbal reminders from teachers and other staff.

At Roslyn Primary School students are welcome to attend our First Aid Room to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact Dawn Hodge (first aid) 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 Roslyn 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. This is not mandatory, but encouraged.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Roslyn Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of our 'Blast Off! Program' at the beginning of the year, and as a reminder in August each year through the health program.

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.

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.

Families and visitors

Families and visitors participating in and attending outdoor school activities are encouraged to:

- wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
- apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and

- seek shade whenever possible when outdoors.

Community engagement

Sun protection 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, students and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home.

Communication

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

Further Information and Resources

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library:
 - o [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - o [Heat Health](#)
 - o [Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors](#)
 - o [Risk Management – Schools](#)
 - o [Shade Sails](#)
 - o [Student Dress Code](#)
- [SunSmart](#) and Cancer Council Victoria.
 - o [Primary schools](#) free education resources, sample policies and information about the free [SunSmart Schools Program](#).
 - o [Secondary schools](#) free education resources and sample policies.
 - o [Sunscreen reactions](#).
- The [Healthy Schools Achievement Program](#)'s Sun Protection health priority area [schools will need to register for the free program to gain access to these resources]

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	July 2027