

POLICY TITLE: SunSmart Policy

DATE DEVELOPED: August 2021

REVIEW DATE: August 2025

ENPS MISSION: We maximise the potential of all; empowering independence, excellence, innovation and engagement with the world.

Critical Engagement
with the World

Academic Excellence

Inclusive Learning
Environment

Personal and Social
Wellbeing

PURPOSE

Essendon North Primary School aims to create healthy environments and encourage appropriate behaviours and independent sun protection skills relating to the exposure to the sun. The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Essendon 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 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 [SunSmart widget](#) on the school's website, the free [SunSmart app](#), or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

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

- where students congregate for lunch
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly area
- sporting grounds.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Essendon 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

Essendon North 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.

From mid-August 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 are required to wear a school hat or another hat style in alignment with our school uniform guidelines that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

Students who are not 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

Essendon North 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](#).

Essendon North Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors, including reminder notices and SunSmart posters.

At Essendon North Primary School students are welcome to attend the first aid room to access sunscreen. Sunscreen is also available prior to lunch eating time in each Year Level. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the School Office to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school. Alternatively students may wish to supply their own sunscreen that is suitable for their skin.

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 Essendon North 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. Essendon North Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of our health education programs and units of inquiry. 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 newsletters, school website, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Essendon North Primary School may provide families and staff with information through newsletters, noticeboards, school website and school assemblies.

Occupational, Health and Safety (OH&S)

As part of OH&S 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.

UV radiation exposure is considered as part of a school's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities on and off-site e.g. UV radiation protection strategies (hats, clothing, shade, sunscreen).

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

RELATED POLICIES

- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Asthma Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Excursions Policy - including camps and adventure activities
- First Aid for Students and Staff Policy
- Health Care Needs
- Medication Policy
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (Vic)
- WorkSafe Compliance Code – First Aid in the Workplace
- Yard Duty and Supervision Policy

HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS



If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Essendon North Primary School on (03) 9379 3979.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy Last Reviewed	August 2021
Approved By	Kate Barletta
Next Scheduled Review Date	August 2025