Huntly Primary School	**Sunsmart** **POLICY**	HUNTLY PRIMARY SCHOOL 306

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office, 54488866

PURPOSE

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

School council approved this policy on [22.11.21].

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

Shade

Huntly Primary School will provide 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 (including the junior playground)
- hardcourt /basketball area

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Huntly 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

Huntly Primary School recommends that from the beginning of September (exact date to be set by the school annually) to April students and staff wear sun-protective clothing including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops (elbow length)
- shorts / skorts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.
- hats when outside

Huntly Primary School's 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), Huntly Primary School will ensure steps are taken to encourage students to wear sun-protective clothing whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

Hats

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 available areas of shade when outdoors or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Huntly 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.

Staff and students who may suffer from skin reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact Mrs Van Riet to implement a plan to reduce the risk of a sunscreen reaction at school, such as families sending their child to school with a suitable alternative sunscreen.

School council approved this policy on [22.11.21].

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices. They are supported to understand effects of sun exposure and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school. Huntly Primary School will address sun protection and UV safety education as part of the Health & Physical education curriculum.

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, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, and student and teacher activities.

Families, students and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Huntly Primary School may provide information through the newsletter, school website, Compass and school assemblies.

Communication

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- 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
    - Heat Health
    - Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors
    - Risk Management – Schools
    - Shade Sails
    - Student Dress Code

School council approved this policy on [22.11.21].

- SunSmart and Cancer Council Victoria.
    - Primary schools free education resources, sample policies and information about the free SunSmart Schools Program.
    - Secondary schools free education resources and sample policies.
    - Sunscreen reactions.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	15th March, 2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	November 2026

School council approved this policy on [22.11.21].