

BEAUMARIS PRIMARY SCHOOL: SUNSMART POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Beaumaris 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). At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types.

To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times. The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the SunSmart widget found at the base of the front page of the school's website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

Beaumaris 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 under the shade cloth outside the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas e.g. wooden playground
- sports oval

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Beaumaris 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.

The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities. Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Beaumaris 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
- student provision of rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

From 1 September to 30 April (and whenever UV levels are 3 or above), all students **must** wear a BPS bucket 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 who are not wearing an appropriate hat will be asked to only play under the shade cloth in front of the canteen.

Sunscreen

Beaumaris Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply the provided 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, according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

Beaumaris Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

At Beaumaris Primary School students are welcome to attend the first aid room or office to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the school office on 03 9589 2619 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.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure.

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.

OHS

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 wherever possible

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in May 2020 and is scheduled for review in May 2022.