

SUNSMART POLICY

This policy was last ratified by School Council June, 2019

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Buninyong Primary School that reflect a healthy UV exposure balance, ensuring some sun exposure for vitamin D while minimising the risk of skin cancer.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures during terms 1 and 4 (when UV index levels are generally higher) and allow sun exposure during terms 2 and 3 (where UV levels are generally lower).
- 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

A balance of sun exposure is important for health. Excessive exposure to the sun can cause health problems including sunburn, dehydration, damage to skin and eyes, and an increased risk of skin cancer.

Too little UV exposure from the sun can lead to low Vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy muscles and bones, and overall health.

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 September - April)
- peaks during school hours

A combination of sun protection measures should be put in place from September to the end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

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

Shade

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

- where students congregate for lunch
- the canteen
- popular play areas
- sporting grounds.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Buninyong 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

Buninyong Primary School recommends that from **September to April**, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students wear sun-protective clothing such as:

- 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.

Buninyong 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.

At recess and lunch times from September to April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, all students **must** wear a hat when playing outside.

Staff and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket.

Students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Students who may not be wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat may be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Buninyong Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily at a minimum from September to the end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours if necessary. It is highly recommended that during high-risk times, that parents/carers ensure that their child has applied sunscreen prior to attending Buninyong Primary School premises, events and excursions.

Buninyong Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors [for example i.e. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies].

At Buninyong Primary School students are welcome to attend the main office or first aid room to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact [Scott McGlynn on 5341 3560](#) 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 from [September to the end of April](#) or whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Buninyong Primary School will address sun, UV safety and Vitamin D education as part of Health and PE lessons, as well as Life Education and general education within the classroom.

Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sunsmart behaviour and Vitamin D education across the school community.

Engaging students, staff and families

Families and staff may be provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety and Vitamin D education at school and at home through our school newsletter, Compass or email notification systems.

Further Information and Resources

School Policy Advisory Guide:

- [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
- [Duty of care](#)

Other resources:

- [SunSmart](#)
- [Achievement Program](#)'s SunSmart policy

Review Cycle

This policy was last updated on November 23rd, 2018 and is scheduled for review in November, 2020.

