



## SUNSMART POLICY

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Moyhu 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 free SunSmart app or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).

School council approved this policy on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 and is due for review in June 2023.

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

## Shade

Moyhu 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
- assembly areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Moyhu 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 Hats

In Terms 1 and Term 4 all students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities such as broad-brimmed or bucket. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of Terms 1 and term 4 by parent or student choice.

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

Students who are not wearing a hat may be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

The school may ask the students to wear their hats outside of Terms 1 and 4 if weather conditions require.

## Sunscreen

Moyhu 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](#).

Moyhu Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors for activities such as recess, lunchtime and swimming.

It is encouraged for students to apply sunscreen at home before they come to school in the mornings.

At Moyhu Primary School sunscreen is always located and available in the classrooms, office, staffroom and by the pool in summer. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the principal or to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school ie student brings their own sunscreen to use.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

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## Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Moyhu Primary School will address sun and UV safety education within our curriculum.

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, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation. Moyhu Primary School gives all new students to the school a Moyhu Primary School Bucket Hat as a welcome gift.

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

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
  - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
  - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in June 2020 and is scheduled for review in June 2023.

**DATE OF APPROVAL BY SCHOOL COUNCIL:** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020