



# SUN PROTECTION POLICY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Eaglehawk North Primary School 54468366

## Rationale:

This policy has been developed to encourage all children and staff attending our school to seek to maximise their protection from skin damage caused by over exposure to the harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation of the sun.

The sun protection measures listed below are used for all outdoor activities from **mid-August to the end of April**. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher during these months. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types.

## Purpose:

1. To facilitate a consistent whole-school community approach to SunSmart practice.
2. To equip students, staff and visitors with habits of SunSmart good practice.
3. To alert students and staff to the dangers of excessive or unprotected exposure to the sun.
4. To maintain Eaglehawk North's official accreditation as a SunSmart school.

## Guidelines for Implementation:

1. The school will maintain a policy of expanding shade areas in the playground by planting additional trees and building shade structures. This includes ensuring there is appropriate shade in high-use areas eg. Canteen assemblies, sports, outdoor lessons and popular play spaces.
2. Children will be actively encouraged to use shaded areas during recess and lunch breaks.
3. Outdoor activities such as Physical Education/Sport or assemblies will be held in shaded areas, where possible
4. Sun protection and skin cancer awareness will be part of the Health-P.E. Program.
5. Students and staff will be actively encouraged to apply sunscreen regularly, e.g. prior to school, before lunch, P.E. lessons, sport, excursions etc. Parents will be encouraged to provide SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for their children. Sunscreen can be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors. Reminders for applying sunscreen if possible will be made prior to the 15 minute inside eating time, so it is able to properly bind with the skin and ensure protection.
6. The SunSmart message will be reinforced and promoted to the whole school community on a regular basis through forums such as the school newsletter, on enrolment of children, at assemblies and at staff meetings.
7. The School Dress Code for students and staff will exclude the wearing of clothing that exposes the shoulders or lower neck. It includes shirts with collars and elbow-length sleeves, longer dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.
8. Students will be required to wear sun protective hats (i.e. broad brimmed and bucket) for all outdoor activities from mid-August to the end of April.
9. From mid-August to the end of April as per the SunSmart recommendations a "no hat – no play" rule will apply in the playground. Children without hats or sun protective clothing must stay in the designated area.

10. The school's uniform supplier will sell broad-brimmed and bucket hats as part of the school uniform.
11. As part of our 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 whenever possible

**Resources:**

*Schools of the Future Reference Guide – 4.5.11*

*Executive Memo 99/039*

*SunSmart Victoria – Phone: 03 95146419      [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au)*

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| Policy last reviewed       | September 2023                          |
| Consultation               | School Council sub-committee, Principal |
| Approved by                | School Council                          |
| Next scheduled review date | September 2027                          |