



SUN PROTECTION POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Grahamvale Primary School on 03 58214219.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Grahamvale 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 off campus activities such as 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.

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

Shade

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

- Under the shade sails
- Digger James playground
- Undercover basketball/netball area
- Macadamia tree seating area.

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Grahamvale Primary School that may impact on the level of shade 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

Grahamvale Primary School's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing:

- 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
- long sleeve rash vests or t-shirts to be worn for outdoor swimming activities.

At lunch, recess times and when participating in learning activities from September 1st to April 30th, and whenever the UV levels reach 3 or above, all students **must** wear a hat when 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 style hat.

Students are required to wear a school hat. Students who are not 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

When UV levels reach 3 or above, Grahamvale Primary School encourage parents/carers to apply sunscreen to their child/ren before coming to school or send a suitable sunscreen with their child/ren. This can be applied if required at school by students independently.

Limited sunscreen is available at the first aid room and sports trolley, for students when required.

Students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreens are encouraged to contact the First Aid Officer to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

Curriculum

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

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, suitable clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
- seek shade whenever possible when outdoors.

Community engagement

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Grahamvale Primary School distributes information through the school newsletter, school website 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 staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy Advisory Library:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Heat Health](#)
 - [Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors](#)
 - [Risk Management - Schools](#)
 - [Shade Sails](#)
 - [Student Dress Code](#)
- [SunSmart](#) and Cancer Council Victoria
 - [Primary schools](#) free education resources, sample policies and information about the free [SunSmart Schools Program](#).
 - [Sunscreen reactions](#).

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2024
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	October 2028 Recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years.