



## MOSSFIEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

### SUNSMART POLICY

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Mossfiel 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 during Term 1 and Term 4
- 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 in Term 1 and Term 4)
- 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 in Term 1 and Term 4. 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).

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

#### Hot Day Time Table

The Assistant Principal will call a "Hot Day Timetable" on extreme hot days in Term 1 and Term 4. Students will have a shortened supervised time outside to go to the canteen, toilet and stretch their legs and will return to their classroom for the remainder of the break supervised by a teacher.

## Shade

Mossfiel 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
- the canteen area
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Mossfiel 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 students will be encouraged to seek shelter in another part of the school grounds.

## Sun protective uniform/clothing

Mossfiel Primary School enforces that during Term 1 and Term 4, students and staff come to school wearing 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.

Mossfiel Primary School, school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- A green wide brim sun-hat.
- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines

In Term 1 and Term 4 all students **must** wear either the green wide brimmed hat or green bucket hat for all outdoor activities. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities, in Term 2 and 3 by parent or student choice.

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

All staff are expected to model Sunsmart practises by wearing a wide brim hat, while on yard duty or undertaking any class outside, during Term 1 and Term 4.

## Sunscreen

Mossfiel Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily, at the start of day in Term 1 and 4 at home before arriving at school. Students that are capable can reapply themselves before going outside.

Mossfiel Primary School will encourage students to reapply sunscreen, if they have brought it from home, before going outdoors

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

## Sunglasses

Where practical Mossfiel Primary School encourages students and staff engaged in outdoor activities to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that covers as much of the eye area as possible.

## Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Mossfiel Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of general teaching of lessons in Term 1 and 4 and through Physical Education lessons.

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, Compass, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

## REVIEW CYCLE

School/VRQA/Department	Approval Process	Last Updated	Review Cycle	Scheduled for Review
School	School Council	May 2020	3 years	May 2023