



WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUNSMART POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Willow Grove 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 or bom.gov.au.**

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

Shade

- The school will provide sufficient options for shelters and trees to provide shade on the school grounds, particularly in places where students congregate such as lunch areas, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted 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.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sun Protective Uniform/Clothing

Willow Grove Primary School's compulsory 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

Students who participate in outdoor water activities are required to **provide their own t-shirt or rash vest.**

Hats

From **1 September to 30 April**, all students and staff are required to wear **sun protective hats** that shades the face, neck and ears, (broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket), whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not considered a suitable alternative. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the September to April time period, by parent or student choice. Hats should be well fitted with adjustable crown cord. Willow Grove Primary School's compulsory school uniform includes a broad brimmed hat that meets the above requirements.

At the end of Term 3, the school will conduct a hat audit, informing parents of any repairs that need to be made.

New students arriving will be given their first hat free of charge.

Sunglasses [OPTIONAL]

Where practical Willow Grove Primary School encourages students and staff engaged in outdoor activities to wear close fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

Sunscreen

Willow Grove 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.

The school supplies SPF 30+ (or higher) broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student use.

Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices and announcements, informing parents through the newsletter).

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

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Willow Grove Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of curriculum for all year levels.

SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website, staff meetings, school assemblies, and at student and teacher activities.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy will be reviewed as part of the schools 3 year review cycle.

Policy last reviewed	May 2022
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review	2025