



Castlemaine
Primary School 0119

SUNSMART POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Castlemaine 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 September to 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 September – 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 September to the end of April in Victoria). Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the SunSmart website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

Castlemaine 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 has significantly invested in the installation of shade sails and additional trees across the school yard to increase shade areas for all students. The impact of future building works or grounds maintenance at Castlemaine Primary School will take into consideration the impact such works may have on the shade available to students.

SUN PROTECTIVE UNIFORM/CLOTHING

Castlemaine Primary School's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- option of tops with long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

From September to 30 April, all students must wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the September to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Students are required to wear the broad brimmed school hat as per the school uniform policy. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat may be asked to play in a suitable designated area protected from the sun.

SUNSCREEN

Castlemaine 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](#).

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. Castlemaine Primary School will address sun and UV safety education within the classroom prior to students resuming the wearing of hats (September to end of April).

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 promoted to the whole school community through the newsletter, 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

This policy is scheduled for review every 4 years.