

BRIGHTON BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Sun Smart Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Brighton Beach Primary School (BBPS) 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 (September 1 –April 30)
- ensure all BBPS children and staff get some UV for vitamin D
- 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

Strategies to embed a child safe culture

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 end of 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. Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the SunSmart widget on the school's website, the free SunSmart app, or at www.sunsmart.com.au or www.bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

BBPS 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
- outdoor lesson areas

- popular play areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at BBPS 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.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

BBPS recommends that from September 1 to April 30, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students 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.

BBPS' 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
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities

From September 1 to April 30, all students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities, for example, broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the August to April time period, by parent or student choice. 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.

On Free Dress days students are reminded to wear clothing that will protect them from the sun.

Staff are encouraged to also wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors.

Sunscreen

BBPS encourages all staff and students to role model SunSmart behaviour and 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 instructions.

Sunglasses [OPTIONAL]

Where practical BBPS 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.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. BBPS will address sun and UV safety education as part of its whole school wellbeing program.

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/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, noticeboards, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home.

RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTATION

School related policies and documents include:

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

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

To ensure ongoing relevance and continuous improvement, this policy will be reviewed every 4 years.

Date Reviewed	October 2021
Responsible for Review	Principal
Review Date	October 2025