



# Sun Protection Policy

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Cranbourne South 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

Overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause health problems including sunburn, damage to skin and eyes, and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. 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 [SunSmart widget](#) on the school's website, the free [SunSmart app](#), or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).

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

## Shade

Cranbourne South 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
- popular play areas/play equipment
- sporting grounds
- outdoor lesson areas
- assembly areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Cranbourne South 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 further shading installed as appropriate.



## Sun Protective Uniform/Clothing

From mid-August until the end of April, all staff and 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 August to April time period, by parent or student choice. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun. Broad brimmed hats are available as part of the school uniform for purchase. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

## Sunscreen

Cranbourne South Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily from mid-August to the end of April and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours or more frequently if sweating or swimming, according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

Cranbourne South Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors such as reminders from the classroom teachers.

Sunscreen that is supplied by the school is stored below 30 degrees and the expiry date monitored.

If students do not have their own sunscreen, the classroom will have a supply for general use or they can attend first aid to access sunscreen.

Staff and students who may suffer from skin reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact first aid to implement a plan to reduce the risk of sunscreen reaction at school, such as families sending their child to school with a suitable alternative sunscreen.

## Sunglasses

Where practical Cranbourne South 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.

## Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices. They are supported to understand the effects of sun exposure and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school. Cranbourne South Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of Life Education for all year levels.

## Staff role-modeling and OHS

Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sunsmart behaviour across the school community.

UV radiation exposure is 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 activities and encouraged to:

- wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses
- apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible when outdoors



## Community engagement

Sun protection behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Families, students and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Cranbourne South Primary School may provide information through newsletters, noticeboards, 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 induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy 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](#)

## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact CSPS office personnel and/or Principal.

## Mandatory Consultation

| Consultation Group                  | Date Consulted                |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| School Council Policy Sub Committee | Month prior to School Council |
| Staff                               | Twice yearly at staff debrief |
| Parents                             | iNewsletter Term 1 & 3        |
| Student leadership groups           | By the end of Term 1          |



**Due for Review**

February

**Certification**

This policy was ratified at the School Council Meeting held at Cranbourne South Primary School on Wednesday 28th February 2024.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

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Principal

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

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School Council President