

CONCORD SCHOOL POLICY

SUNSMART

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Concord School to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer due to ultraviolet radiation.

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 October – April) and allow sun exposure when UV levels are below 3 (generally May – August)
- 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.

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

Shade

Concord School will provide for sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- playgrounds
- assembly areas



When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Concord 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

Concord School recommends that from October to April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students wear sun-protective clothing such as:

- Primary School students are to wear hats whenever they are outside from October-April (terms 1 and 4) as this is when UV Index levels reach 3 and above. Primary students without hats will be restricted to playing in designated shaded areas.
- Secondary School students are strongly encouraged to wear hats whenever they are outside from October - April (terms 1 and 4) as this is when UV Index levels reach 3 and above. Secondary students without hats will be encouraged to remain in shaded areas.
- Staff in all sections will be strongly encouraged to wear hats whenever they are outside from October - April (terms 1 and 4) as this is when UV Index levels reach 3 and above.
- Concord School's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including broad-brimmed hats and sun-protective clothing, such as long sleeve polo shirts.

Sunscreen

Concord School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily at a minimum from October 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 if necessary. Parents/carers are encouraged to apply the sunscreen at home. Sunscreen can only be applied at school by students, under the supervision of a teacher, according to the manufacturer's directions.

At Concord School students are welcome to attend the First Aid room to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreens are encouraged to contact the school nurse to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside from October to the end of April or whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

REVIEW CYCLE

School Council approved this policy in August 2021. It will be reviewed in August 2024.