

We acknowledge the "Wurundjeri people" of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land we live, work, and travel upon. We respect their elders, both past and present, always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.



We stand up for diversity.

Brunswick East Primary School

Sun Safe Policy



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help understanding the information in this policy, please contact the office at 9387 3361.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support sun protection behaviours at Brunswick East Primary School to minimise the risk of health problems from sun overexposure, including skin cancer.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- support staff and students to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV index levels are three or above (generally mid-August to the end of April in Victoria)
- 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 on and off-site, including camps and excursions. It applies 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 an increased risk of skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in 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 day and the year (highest from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria)
- 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 three or above. Daily local sun protection times are available via the SunSmart widget on the school's website <https://beps.vic.edu.au/> or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

Brunswick East Primary School has the following measures in place for all outdoor activities during the daily sun protection times to help reduce the risk of over-exposure to UV radiation for staff and students.

Shade

Brunswick East Primary School provides sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas

Students are encouraged to use available shade areas outdoors during peak sun protection times.

When building works, or grounds maintenance is conducted at Brunswick East Primary School that may impact the level of shade available to staff and students, a review of the shaded areas available will be conducted, and further shading will be installed as appropriate.

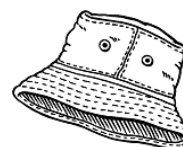
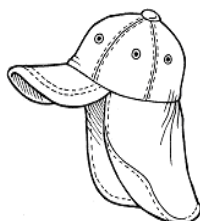
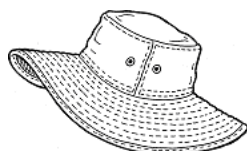
Sun protective clothing

Brunswick East Primary School recommends that from September to the end of April, and whenever UV levels reach three and above, students come to school wearing sun-protective clothing such as:

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

Hats

From September (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, **all students and staff 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 parent or student choice.



Broad-brimmed hat with a brim of at least 7.5 cm

Legionnaire hat

Bucket Hat with a brim of at least 6 cm for primary school children

Sunscreen

Brunswick East Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily whenever UV levels reach three 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).

Brunswick East Primary School staff will remind students to apply sunscreen before going outside.

Sunglasses

Where practical, Brunswick East 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 for the whole school. Brunswick East Primary School will address sun protection and UV safety education as part of Health and Physical Education.

Staff role-modelling and OHS

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.

UV radiation exposure is considered 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 school activities are encouraged to:

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

Community engagement

Sun protection behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, the school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and 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. Brunswick East Primary School may provide information through compass and School Gatherings.

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.
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders on Compass
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department’s Policy and 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](#).

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	12/9/23
Approved by	Consultation School School. Approved Principal
Next scheduled review date	September 2026