

POLICY: SCS27: Sun Smart POLICY	Issued: May 2022
REVIEW: May 2025	Approved: Sue Holmes (Principal)

SUNSMART POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact reception on 03 97552007.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Sherbrooke Community 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

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 SunSmart widget on the school's website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

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

- outside the 7-10 areas
- the canteen deck
- outdoor lesson areas
- primary deck area
- The basket ball court

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Sherbrooke Community 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

Sherbrooke community school recommends that from mid-August to end of April, 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.

Primary school students: During term 4 and term 1 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 this time period, by parent or student choice.

Secondary school students: We expect students to take responsibility for being SunSmart by wearing a hat during outdoor activities or staying in the shade, if they are not wearing sunscreen.

Staff are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket.

Sunscreen

Sherbrooke community 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](#).

Sherbrooke Community School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

At Sherbrooke Community School students are welcome to attend reception to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact Amy in reception 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.

Sunglasses

Where practical Sherbrooke Community 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. Sherbrooke Community School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the health or wellbeing programs.

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.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in transition and enrolment packs when required
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions as required
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request
- Placed in the first aid office in reception

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)
- [Achievement Program](#)'s SunSmart policy
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POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy approved on	
Approved by	School Council president
	Principal

Next scheduled review date	Feb 2023