

# Avondale Primary School

## SUN PROTECTION POLICY



### Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

*Avondale Primary School is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families.*

*We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views respected, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students.*

*Avondale Primary school's approach to creating and maintaining a child safe school environment is guided by our school philosophy and values. At Avondale Primary School our vision is 'to create a community that strives for excellence through high quality learning, engagement and wellbeing for all.'*

*We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risk of harm to students in our school environments.*

*We promote positive relationships between students and adults and between students and their peers. These relationships are based on trust and respect.*

*When child safety concerns are raised or identified, we treat these seriously and respond promptly and thoroughly.*

*Particular attention is given to the child safety needs of Aboriginal students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, students with disabilities, those unable to live at home, children and young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) and other students experiencing risk or vulnerability. Inappropriate or harmful behaviour targeting students based on these or other characteristics, such as racism or homophobia, are not tolerated at our school, and any instances identified will be addressed with appropriate consequences.*

*Child safety is a shared responsibility. Every person involved in our school has an important role in promoting child safety and wellbeing and promptly raising any issues or concerns about a child's safety.*

*We are committed to regularly reviewing our child safe practices, and seeking input from our students, families, staff, and volunteers to inform our ongoing strategies.*



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office on 9318 1755.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Avondale 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.

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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 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).

Avondale 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

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

- outdoor lesson areas e.g. basketball court
- popular play areas e.g. playground

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times, particularly if they do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing. Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing from mid-August to end of April are asked to engage in passive play in a shade area that is protected from the sun.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Avondale 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. A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

Avondale Primary School ensures that the availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities such as House Sports Day, Athletics Day and Interschool Sport events.

### Sun protective uniform/clothing

Avondale Primary 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

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- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts

Avondale Primary School's 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

Avondale Primary School's uniform or dress code applies on and off-site unless otherwise advised. When students are not required to wear school uniform (such as school camps, free dress day), Avondale Primary School will ensure steps are taken to encourage students to wear sun-protective clothing whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

### Hats

From mid-August to end of April (exact dates to be set by the school annually), 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 the August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. 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. Baseball or peaked caps and sun visors are not considered a suitable alternative, as they do not protect the ears, cheeks or neck.

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

Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or hats will be asked to use available areas of shade when outdoors or a suitable area protected from the sun.

### Sunscreen

Avondale Primary 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 or more frequently if sweating or swimming.

Avondale Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. These may include sunscreen monitors, classroom timetables. Sunscreen that is supplied by the school is stored below 30 degrees and the expiry date monitored.

At Avondale Primary School students are welcome to access sunscreen in each classroom, learning space, First Aid room, and First Aid bags when on excursions and other external activities. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the school to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at

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school. Students are also encouraged to bring a suitable alternative sunscreen in their school bags to apply before recess and lunchtime.

### **Sunglasses**

Where practical Avondale 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 and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Avondale Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Physical Education & Health curriculum and revised through the Routines for Success program at the beginning of each school term.

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.

### **Curriculum**

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices. They are supported to understand effects of sun exposure and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school. Avondale Primary School will address sun protection and UV safety education as part of inquiry learning and health curriculum.

### **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 as 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, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

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- Families, students and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Avondale Primary School may provide information through Compass News Feeds, newsletters, 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 handbook
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- discussed at parent information sessions
- reminders in our school newsletter
- 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.](#)
  - [Secondary schools free education resources and sample policies.](#)
  - [Sunscreens reactions.](#)

The [Healthy Schools Achievement Program](#)'s Sun Protection health priority area

### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy approved by School Council	27th February 2024
Approved by	School Council Principal
Next scheduled review date	27th February 2025