

Sun Protection Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Newport Gardens 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 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 sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade



Newport Gardens 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
- junior school sand pit
- playground areas
- sporting areas
- areas adjacent to sporting fields
- covered area opposite the main building (assembly area)

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.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Newport Gardens 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

Newport Gardens 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

From mid-August to 30 April (Term 1 & 4), all students must wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Hats will also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

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

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 will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Newport Gardens Primary School 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), Newport Gardens Primary School will ensure steps are taken to encourage students to wear sun-protective clothing whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

Sunscreen

Newport Gardens 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. Sunscreen will be available at all times within the classroom and is purchased from funds generated from the 'Health & Hygiene' sub-program budget.

Newport Gardens Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors such as reminding students as part of transitions, sunscreen monitors and visuals within the classroom.

Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact our First Aid Officer and the classroom teacher to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school. This can be communicated through an onsite visit or a phone call/email.

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 Newport Gardens 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. Newport Gardens Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of Health & Physical Education curriculum alongside our SWPBS Matrix that outlines expected behaviour inside and outside the classroom.

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 as part of their unit planning.

SunSmart 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
 - Sun and UV Protection Policy
 - Duty of care
- SunSmart
- Achievement Program's SunSmart policy



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REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in November 2023 and is scheduled for review in November 2026.