



Falls Creek Primary School

SunSmart Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Falls Creek 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 to 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). As the school is in an alpine area, sun protection measures are also necessary during the winter months.

Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the free SunSmart app, or at www.sunsmart.com.au or www.bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

Falls Creek Primary School will provide sufficient options for shelter to provide shade on school grounds, particularly where students play or have lunch, and in outdoor lesson areas.

Students and staff will be encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

The availability of shade will be considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Falls Creek 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 clothing

Falls Creek Primary School requires that sun protective clothing which covers the shoulders and body is to be worn whenever outside from mid-August to the end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

All students and staff are to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not considered suitable.

Students who are not wearing appropriate hats or protective clothing may be asked to play in shaded areas.

Sunscreen

Falls Creek Primary School supplies SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen and encourages all staff and students to apply it daily at a minimum from mid-August 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.

Falls Creek Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

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

Students and staff are required to wear sunglasses or goggles when participating in snowsport activities during winter.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Falls Creek Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of our school curriculum.

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

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)

Review Cycle

This policy was last updated and approved by School Council May 2019 and is scheduled for review in April 2023.