

SUNSMART POLICY

PURPOSE

William Ruthven Primary School encourages and supports behaviour to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer. This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

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.
- Peaks during school hours.

AIMS

- 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)
- To ensure that there are outdoor environments that provide adequate shade for students and staff
- To ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection
- To 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.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

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

Shade

William Ruthven 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.
- Popular play areas.
- Assembly areas.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at William Ruthven 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

William Ruthven 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
- Rash vests or T-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

From 1 September to 30 April, 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.

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

Sunscreen

William Ruthven 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. The school recommends that sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, and reapplied every two hours according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

Curriculum

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

Engaging students, staff and families

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.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Example School may provide families and staff with information through newsletters, noticeboards, school website, school assemblies.

Further information and resources

- Department of Education and Training's School Policy Advisory Guide: [Sun and UV Protection](#).
- [SunSmart](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in June 2019 and is scheduled for review in June 2023.