

SUN PROTECTION POLICY



PURPOSE

Frankston Heights Primary School is committed to promoting healthy sun protection practices to minimise the risks associated with exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, including skin cancer.

This policy aims to:

- promote effective sun protection behaviours whenever UV levels are 3 or above (generally from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria)
- provide outdoor environments with adequate shade for students and staff
- encourage and support students to develop lifelong, independent sun-protection habits
- support the school's duty of care and occupational health and safety to minimise harmful UV exposure for students and staff.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students, staff and visitors and covers all school activities, both on and off-site, including excursions, camps, sporting events and outdoor learning activities.

POLICY

Excessive exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can lead to sunburn, skin and eye damage, and significantly increases the risk of developing skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

It is important to remember that UV radiation:

- cannot be seen or felt
- can be reflected from surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, buildings, water and sand
- can penetrate light cloud cover
- varies throughout the day and year, with the highest levels typically occurring from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria
- commonly reaches peak levels during school hours.

Sun safety is a shared responsibility. Staff, students and families are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV levels are 3 or above. Daily local sun protection times are available through the SunSmart app or the Bureau of Meteorology website, bom.gov.au.

Frankston Heights Primary School implements the following measures 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

The school provides a range of shaded areas throughout the grounds, including:

- student eating areas
- the canteen
- outdoor learning spaces
- popular play areas.

Students are encouraged to use shaded areas whenever they are outdoors during peak UV periods, particularly if they are not wearing appropriate sun-protective clothing or a school hat.

Sun-Protective Clothing

The Frankston Heights Primary School uniform has been designed to provide effective sun protection and includes:

- loose-fitting, cool, densely woven fabrics
- collared shirts
- elbow-length or long sleeves tops
- longer-style shorts and dresses
- rash vests or T-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

The school uniform is to be worn at all school activities, including excursions, unless otherwise advised. On occasions when students are not required to wear school uniform, such as free dress days or camps, families are encouraged to ensure students wear clothing that provides appropriate sun protection whenever UV levels are 3 or above.

Hats

From mid-August to the end of April, all students are required to wear the school's approved broad-brimmed hat whenever they are outdoors. The hat features a close-weave fabric and a rigid brim of at least 8 cm to provide protection for the face, neck and ears.

School hats are available for purchase from the school office.

Students who do not have an appropriate school hat will be required to remain in designated shaded areas during outdoor activities. Families will be notified if their child does not have a school hat during the compulsory hat-wearing period.

Sunscreen

Frankston Heights Primary School encourages all students and staff to apply SPF 30 (or higher), broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen whenever UV levels are 3 or above.

For maximum protection, sunscreen should be:

- applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors
- reapplied every two hours, or more frequently after swimming or excessive sweating.

Students and staff are expected to bring their own sunscreen to school and school events.

Sunglasses

Students may wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard for eye protection whenever practical.

Teaching and Learning

Sun protection education is incorporated into the curriculum across all year levels. Students are supported to understand the risks associated with UV exposure and are encouraged to develop positive, lifelong sun-protection habits. Staff also model and reinforce appropriate sun protection behaviours.

Staff Responsibilities and Occupational Health & Safety

Staff are encouraged to access professional learning and resources to support and promote effective sun protection practices across the school community.

UV exposure is considered as part of the school's risk management processes for all outdoor activities, including:

- excursions
- camps
- sports days

- interschool sport
- outdoor learning programs.

Appropriate sun protection strategies are incorporated into the planning of these activities.

Families and Visitors

Families and visitors attending outdoor school events are encouraged to:

- wear a broad-brimmed hat and sun-protective clothing
- apply SPF 30 (or higher), broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
- wear sunglasses where practical
- seek shade whenever possible.

Community Engagement

Frankston Heights Primary School actively promotes sun-protection practices throughout the school community. Information and reminders are shared through:

- school newsletters
- Sentral communications
- school assemblies
- before and during excursions, camps, sports carnivals and outdoor events
- classroom learning programs.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at school assemblies

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2026
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	July 2029