SUNSMART POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact briar.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Briar Hill 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

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

All staff each year will be briefed on the SunSmart Policy and teacher education around SunSmart will occur each year.

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

Shade

Briar Hill Primary School will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- The deck
- Oak tree
- Playground with shade cloth
- Sandpit with shade
- popular play areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Briar Hill 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.

Where extreme heat occurs students will be provided with appropriate indoor play.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Briar Hill 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
- 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.

For terms 1 and 2 (until the 1st May) and Term 4 , 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 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

Briar Hill 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 according to manufacturer's instructions. This is applied by the students, not the teacher. In the junior school our students are assisted.

Briar Hill Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors for example teacher reminders and classroom monitors.

At Briar Hill Primary School students are to provide and bring their own sunscreen. It is the responsibility of parents to provide their children with personal sunscreen, labelled with their name, to be used at school, during excursions and at the Outside School Hours Care program

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 Briar Hill 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. Briar Hill Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health and Physical Education 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. Briar Hill Primary School may provide families and staff with information through [insert communication strategies i.e. newsletters, noticeboards, school website, school assemblies].

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter

- Discussed at student assembly
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library:
  - Sun and UV Protection Policy
  - Duty of care
- SunSmart

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Plan last reviewed	2025
Consultation	Not Required
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	April 2027