

SUN PROTECTION POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact our EAL Teacher at Kangaroo Flat Primary School on (03) 5447 5100.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support sun protection behaviours at Kangaroo Flat Primary School to minimise risk of health problems from sun overexposure, including 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 the end of April in Victoria)
- 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 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 on and off-site, 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 day and the year (highest from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria)
- 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 or above. Daily local sun protection times are available via the SunSmart widget on the Kangaroo Flat Primary School website, the free SunSmart app, and sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

Kangaroo Flat Primary School has 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

Kangaroo Flat Primary School provides sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- where students congregate for lunch (the amphitheatre)
- the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas

Students are encouraged to use available shade areas when outdoors during peak sun protection times, particularly if they do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing.

When building works or grounds maintenance are conducted at Kangaroo Flat Primary School that may impact the level of shade available to staff and students, the shaded areas available will be reviewed, and further shading will be installed as appropriate.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Kangaroo Flat Primary School's uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, densely woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow-length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts, dresses and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

Kangaroo Flat Primary School's uniform and dress code applies on and off-site unless otherwise advised. When students are not required to wear school uniforms (such as school camps or free dress days), Kangaroo Flat Primary School will ensure steps are taken to encourage students to wear sun-protective clothing whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

Hats

From 1 September to 30 April, all students must wear a school sun-protective hat that shades the face, neck, and ears for all outdoor activities. School hats are also encouraged to be worn for all outdoor activities outside of this period.

Students not wearing appropriate clothing or hats will be asked to use available areas of shade when outdoors or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Kangaroo Flat 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 (or more frequently if sweating or swimming).

Students and staff are encouraged to bring sunscreen to school. For students and staff who don't bring their own sunscreen, Kangaroo Flat Primary School supplies broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with SPF30 (or higher) for staff and students to use. This will be stored in offices and can be provided to students by their teachers. Sunscreen that is supplied by the school is stored below 30 degrees, and the expiry date is monitored.

Families of students who may suffer from skin reactions to certain types of sunscreens are encouraged to contact the school administration team at (03) 5447 5100 to implement a plan to reduce the risk of a sunscreen reaction at school, such as families sending their children to school with suitable alternative sunscreen.

Sunglasses

Where practical, Kangaroo Flat 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. They are supported to understand the effects of sun exposure and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school. Kangaroo Flat Primary School will address sun protection and UV safety education as part of Health and Physical Education lessons and regularly review information in lessons during the warmer weather.

Staff role-modelling and OHS

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.

From 1 September to 30 April, all staff must wear a broad-brimmed hat that shades the face, neck, and ears for all outdoor activities, including yard duty. Broad-brimmed hats are also encouraged to be worn for all outdoor activities outside of this period.

Staff must wear protective clothing outdoors and model positive sun protection behaviours to students.

UV radiation exposure is considered as part of our school's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities, i.e. UV radiation protection strategies are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

Families and visitors

Families and visitors participating in and attending outdoor school activities are encouraged to:

- wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
- apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and
- seek shade whenever possible when outdoors.

Community engagement

Sun protection behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, the school website, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Families, students and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and home. Kangaroo Flat Primary School may provide information through school newsletters, the school website, and assemblies.

COMMUNICATION

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

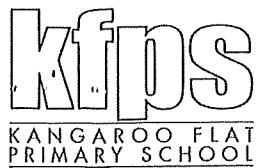
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

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	June 11 th 2024
Consultation	School Council in May and June 2024
Approved by	Victoria Curnow School Council President
Next scheduled review date	This policy was last updated on June 11 th 2024 and is scheduled for review in three years (June 2027) as recommended by the Department of Education.



Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vic Curnow'.

Victoria Curnow

School Council President

Date 11.06.2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Chaffey-Jones'.

Kelsey Chaffey-Jones

Principal

Date 11.06.2024