SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Cranbourne Primary School.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support sun protection behaviours at Cranbourne Primary School to minimise the 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 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 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, which covers most of the school year)
- 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. Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the free SunSmart Global UV app, or at sunsmart.com.au, or at the Bureau of Meteorology at bom.gov.au, or on our schools website, at the bottom of our homepage: https://www.cranbourne-ps.vic.edu.au/

Cranbourne Primary School has the following measures in place 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

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times, if they do not have appropriate hats and other outdoor clothing – during Terms 1 and 4, students will be required to use set zones within the yard.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Cranbourne Primary School recommends that whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students come to school wearing sun-protective clothing such as:

- 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.

Cranbourne Primary School's uniform 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

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

Hats

During Term 1 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 this time, by parent or student choice.

Baseball or peaked caps and sun visors are not considered a suitable alternative, as they do not protect the ears, cheeks or neck.

Students who are not wearing an appropriate hat will be required to use available areas of shade when outdoors for recess and lunchtimes. Students without appropriate hats will be unable to access outdoor sports lessons when the UV is over 3 during Terms 1 & 4.

Sunscreen

Cranbourne Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily whenever UV levels reach 3 and above

Students and staff are reminded and encouraged to bring their own SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to school.

Sunglasses

Students are permitted to wear sunglasses during outside breaks in Term 1 & 4. These must be stored in their bag during class and are the sole responsibility of the student.

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 SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and
- seek shade whenever possible when outdoors.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- 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.
  - Sunscreen reactions.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November, 2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	November, 2029