

Sun Protection Policy



**Eton Farm
Education**

Policy No/Name	EFE 41 Sun Protection Policy
Version	2
Status	Complete
Reviewed by	MMW
Responsibility	Principal
Scheduled review date	September, 2024

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Updated: September 2023.

Sun Protection Policy

1. Overview

1.1. Statement

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70¹. Too much of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage, and skin cancer. Sun exposure in childhood and adolescence greatly increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life.

Children are at school during peak UV radiation times. Sun protection and sun safe behavioural education during the school years has a critical role in reducing sun exposure.

1.2. Scope

This policy applies to all children, caregivers, volunteers, board members, employees, students, and visitors to the school.

This policy applies to all school events on and off-site.

1.3. Purpose

This policy is intended to provide guidelines for the implementation of sun safe practices at Eton Farm Education, including:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation.
- ensure the outdoor environment provides 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 sun protection.
- support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

¹ Staples MP, Elwood M, Burton RC, Williams JL, Marks R, Giles GG. Non-melanoma skin cancer in Australia: the 2002 national survey and trends since 1985. *Med J Aust.* 2006;184(1):6–10.

- We are a Sun Smart School and therefore follow best practice with sun protection and meets the minimum standard requirements relating to curriculum, behaviour and environment. We are committed to the health of our students and meeting the duty of care responsibilities, as well as work health and safety requirements for staff.

1.4. Student Protection and Duty of Care

Eton Farm Education supports the rights of children and young people. We are committed to ensuring the safety, welfare, and wellbeing of students, and view them as the highest priority at all times.

Eton Farm Education has a duty of care to protect students and staff from harm at all times.

1.5. Legislation and Standards

[Duty of Care](#) (AISWA)

[Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984](#) (WA)

[Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch.5 Reg.1\(1.2\)](#) (VIC)

2. Procedures

2.1. UV Index

- To assist with implementing this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the [Sun Smart app](#), the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) website, or at myuv.com.au.
- The sun protection measures listed in this policy are to be used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times.
- Sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day that UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types, as this is high enough to cause damage to unprotected skin.
- Between UV level 3 and 7, sun protection (shirt, sunscreen, and hat) is required, and shade should be sought during midday hours.
- At UV level 8 and above, being outside during midday hours should be avoided. Seek shade and ensure shirt, hat, and sunscreen are on.

2.2. Environment

- Eton Farm Education ensures there is sufficient natural and built shade over outdoor play areas, areas where students congregate at break time, and assembly points.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- The use of shade, including temporary shade, is maximised during outdoor activities, and indoor facilities are used wherever possible.
- Staff and students are actively encouraged to use the shade provided.

2.3. Skin Protection

2.3.1. Hats

- All staff and students are actively encouraged to wear a broad-brimmed, legionnaire, or bucket (minimum 6cm brim, deep crown) hat that protects the face, neck, ears, and crown of the head when outside. Caps and visors are not sun protective and are not recommended.
- Parents, caregivers, and visitors are actively encouraged to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire, or bucket hats when attending outdoor school activities.
- Students with special needs may need assistance in remembering to or assistance in putting their hat on.
- Students without appropriate hats are encouraged to play in the shade. 'No hat, no play' policies are counter-productive for physical activity. 'No Sun Smart hat, play in the shade' is preferred.
- Broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats are compulsory for sport and physical education.

2.3.2. Clothing

- Sun protective clothing is encouraged (i.e., collared shirts, elbow or full length sleeves, longer shorts and skirts or long pants, fabric with a UPF rating of 50+, enclosed shoes), especially during sports and physical education.
- Staff and students are encouraged to wear a rash vest, t-shirt, or similar top for swimming/water activities (unless asked otherwise for competitive swimming).
- Adults and students are encouraged to wear appropriate close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet [Australian Standard 1067](#).

2.3.3. Sunscreen

- Sunscreen is available and accessible to all staff and students.
- Staff and students are actively encouraged to apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before outdoor activities, recess and lunch.
- Students with sunscreen sensitivities are encouraged to bring their own, which must be labelled.
- Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes (or in accordance with the manufacturer's directions) before going outside to receive maximum benefit.
- Time is given to apply sunscreen and reapplication after 2 hours is encouraged during extended outdoor periods, or more frequently if sweating or swimming.
- Students with special needs may need assistance in remembering to or assistance with putting sunscreen on.

2.4. Scheduled Activities

- Where possible, outdoor activities are scheduled out of peak UV times, when UV level is less than 3, and/or as far from solar noon as possible.
- When outdoor activities are scheduled at times when the UV Index is 3 or higher, maximum use will be made of shade, sunscreen, hats, and long clothing to protect students and staff.
- Camps and excursions are included in sun protective wear, and shade is to be used for activities on camps and excursions wherever possible. Consideration is given to sun protection for all staff involved in outdoor activities, including yard duty. Physical

education and sport education teachers are required to take appropriate sun protection measures as they are particularly at risk from UV radiation.

2.5. Curriculum

- Sun protection as skin cancer prevention is incorporated into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum for all year levels.

2.6. Additional Practices

- Sun protection behaviour is demonstrated by all school staff, parents and visitors— as part of OHS UV risk control and role-modelling.
- Promotion of sun protection will occur throughout the year newsletters, school website, staff and parent meetings, student and teacher activities, student and staff enrolment/orientation, etc.

3. We support SLIP on protective clothing **SLOP** on sunscreen **SLAP** on a SunSmart hat **SEEK** shade **SLIDE** on sunglasses. Sunglasses are optional.

4. Monitoring and Review

- Evaluation of this policy will be conducted to determine the impact of the policy and any review required.
- This evaluation is scheduled to take place one year (12 months) after the policy is first implemented, then every two years thereafter.
- Reviews will involve parents, students, and teachers, and will include monitoring the school’s compliance with the policy and making suggestions for improvement.
- The Sun Protection Policy is available to all staff, students, families, and visitors.

5. Resources

- [Sun Smart Schools WA](#)
- [Sun Smart primary school resources VIC](#)
- [Generation SunSmart](#) educator, student, and community resources
- AISWA Sun Protection policies and procedures guidelines
- Kidskin sun safety curriculum resource kits for lower, middle and upper primary school.
- Brochures, posters and fact sheets for staff, students and parents.

Version History		
Date	Version	Reviewer
01/21	1 created	EG Board
09/23	2	MMW