



SUNSMART POLICY

Help for non-English speakers



If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact our office staff at Bourchier Street Primary School (Ph:58213488) who will arrange for a translator to communicate with you.

PURPOSE

Bourchier Street Primary School's Child Safety Policy sets out the school's commitment and approach to creating and maintaining a child safe organization where children and young people are safe and feel safe and provides the policy framework for the school's approach to the Child Safe Standards.

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 skin cancer. UV damaged accumulated during childhood is strongly associated with 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 SunSmart widget on the school's website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au. The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types.

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

Shade

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

- where students congregate for lunch
- the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds/pools.

The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities.

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at **Bourchier Street 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.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Bourchier Street Primary School's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- 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.

From mid-August to 30 April, all students and staff **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities including recess and lunch times, and when UV levels reach 3 and above. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the August to April time frame.

Staff and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Peak caps or visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

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

Bourchier Street Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily at a minimum from 15th August to the 30th April, and 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](#) (or more frequently if sweating or swimming) when outside.

Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the Principal to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside from mid-August to the end of April or whenever UV levels reach 3 or above.

Sunglasses

Where practical **Bourchier Street 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. **Bourchier Street Primary School** will address sun and UV safety education as part of class programs in Foundation to Year 6.

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. Resources can be sourced at <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-schools/resources-schools-early-childhood/primary-schools-resources> .

Engaging students, staff and families

Bourchier Street Primary School will remind families through newsletters, noticeboards, the school website and school assemblies of the SunSmart policy.

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
- Discussed at staff meetings as required
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy Advisory Library:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)
- [Achievement Program](#)'s SunSmart policy [schools will need to register for the program to gain access to these resources]

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 26th August 2020 and is scheduled for review in 2023.