

# SUNSMART POLICY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Silverton Primary School on 9795-5033.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Silverton 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 until 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 skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later 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 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](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.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.

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

## Shade

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

- the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- play areas
- assembly areas
- playgrounds

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 Silverton 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

Silverton'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

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. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the mid-August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

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. Peak caps and visor are not considered a suitable alternative.

## Sunscreen

Silverton Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily from mid-August to the end of 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 or more frequently if sweating or swimming, according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

Silverton Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.



Silverton Primary students can access sunscreen from their learning centres or first aid. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreens are encouraged to contact the Principal on 9795 5033 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.

## Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Silverton Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health and PE curriculum programs for all year levels.

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/advice-for/schools-early-childhood/primary-school-resources>

## Engaging students, staff and families

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

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy Advisory Library:
  - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
  - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmartAchievement Program](#)'s SunSmart policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2028

# Silverton Primary School

is a registered member of the

## SUNSMART SCHOOLS PROGRAM

and has a sun protection policy that meets SunSmart guidelines and recommendations to reduce skin cancer risk.

Celebrating  
29 years as a  
SunSmart  
member (1996 -  
2025)

*Nicky Muir*

Signed on behalf of SunSmart

Membership renewed 23 June, 2025  
Next renewal due June, 2030

