

SUNSMART POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Tecoma 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 (September 1 – until April 30)
- 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 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 or bom.gov.au

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

Shade

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

- outdoor lesson areas, such as the courtyard
- over both Junior and senior playgrounds
- School Gazebo
- Undercover walkways.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Tecoma Primary School's *School Uniform and Student 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, skorts and skirts
- all students **must** wear a Tecoma Primary School broad brimmed or bucket hat, which shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities from September 1 until April 30. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the September to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Staff are to model Sunsmart practices, by wearing broad brim hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors.

Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat are asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Sunscreen

Tecoma 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 according to manufacturer's instructions.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside. Due to skin allergies it is a parent's responsibility to supply sunscreen for their child to apply at school. SunSmart posters are displayed around the school to remind students to apply sunscreen.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Tecoma Primary School will address sun and UV safety education throughout the year, especially at the beginning of the school year and at the beginning of term 4, in conjunction with the wearing of school hats and being SunSmart.

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. Staff are able to access resources from the SunSmart website at <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/> and Cancer Council website at <https://www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/sunsmart-schools/>

Engaging students, staff and families

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

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Duty of Care](#)
 - [SunSmart](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

<i>This policy has a review cycle of 3-4 years</i>	This policy was approved by School Council on 20th August, 2019 and is scheduled for review in July, 2023 .
<i>Reviewed by</i>	<i>Di Double, Fiona Green, Stuart McLean, Narelle Paul, Lisa Dell, Deb Langford, Chelsey Robins.</i>
<i>Approved by</i>	Principal – Rohan Thompson School Council President – Fiona Green