

# Sun Safety Policy



## Help for non-English Speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Miners Rest Primary School on 03 5334 6328 or [miners.rest.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:miners.rest.ps@education.vic.gov.au).

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Miners Rest 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 – 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 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 free [SunSmart app](#), or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).

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



### **Shade**

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

- Playground equipment
- Outdoor eating spaces

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Miners Rest 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**

Miners Rest 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.

From September 1 to April 30, 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 the September to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Staff and students are expected to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. These compliant hats must be worn correctly with brim wide and covering ears, back of neck and face.

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 will be required to play under the northside of the Davey Building verandah, protected from the sun. This area is signed for easy identification.

### **Sunscreen**

Miners Rest 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](#). Sunscreen will be provided in all classrooms.

Miners Rest Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors, in the form of reminder notices.

At Miners Rest Primary School, students and staff are encouraged to bring their own sunscreen from home, to avoid allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreens.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.



### **Sunglasses**

Where practical, Miners Rest Primary School supports the wearing of 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, when engaged in outdoor activities.

### **Curriculum**

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Miners Rest Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum.

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.

### **Engaging students, staff and families**

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

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Miners Rest Primary School may provide families and staff with information through newsletters, noticeboards, school website and school assemblies.

### **Communication**

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

- Available publicly on school website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in our Staff Operations Guide
- Annual reference in school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

### **Policy Review and Approval**

Policy last reviewed	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Approved by	Principal, School Council, and Inclusion & Engagement SIT
Next scheduled review date	Before November 2025, or prior in the event of a critical incident.

This policy will also be updated if significant changes are made to the school grounds that require a revision of Miners Rest Primary School's Sun Smart procedures.