**SUNSMART POLICY**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Harrisfield P.S. 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](http://www.sunsmart.com.au/tools/interactive-tools/free-sunsmart-app), or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au) or bom.gov.au.

Harrisfield P.S.hasthe following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

**Shade**

Harrisfield P.S. will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

* popular play areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Harrisfield P.S. 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**

Harrisfield P.S. recommends that from mid-August to end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students come to school wearing sun-protective clothing such as:

* Harrisfield School uniform and hats

From week 4 of term 3 to 30 April, all staff and students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Students are encouraged to wear the Harrisfield school hat with the logo for all outdoor activities.

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

Students who choose to wear a protective UV top should ensure that these are in the school colours of either white, black or maroon.

**Sunscreen**

Harrisfield P.S. 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](https://www.tga.gov.au/book/4-labelling-and-advertising). Students are encouraged to bring sunscreen from home to apply at school- to be stored in their school bag. Harrisfield P.S. has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors which includes reminding students to apply sun-screen at fruit time (10am). Additional reminders include slip, slop, and slap posters located near exit doors.

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 Harrisfield P.S. 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. Harrisfield P.S. will address sun and UV safety education as part of our Health Curriculum Program.

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. Harrisfield P.S. may provide families and staff with information through communication strategies i.e. newsletters, noticeboards, school website, school assemblies.

**Further Information and Resources**

* School Policy Advisory Guide:
  + [Sun and UV Protection Policy](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/sun.aspx)
  + [Duty of care](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/dutyofcare.aspx)
* [SunSmart](http://www.sunsmart.com.au/)

**Review Cycle**

This policy was last updated in February 2020 and is scheduled for review in February 2023.

School Council approved this policy on 17th February 2020.