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|  | **Help for non-English speakers**  If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Hume Valley School.  Ph: 9309 3477 |

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to support sun protection behaviours at Hume Valley School to minimise the risk of health problems from sun overexposure, including 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 to the end of April in Victoria)
* 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**

Overexposure 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 damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in 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 day and the year (highest from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria, which covers most of the school year)

· 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 or above. Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via the [SunSmart widget](http://www.sunsmart.com.au/uv-sun-protection/uv/uv-widget) on the school’s website the free [SunSmart Global UV app](http://www.sunsmart.com.au/tools/interactive-tools/free-sunsmart-app), or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au/), or at the Bureau of Meteorology at bom.gov.au.

Hume Valley School has the following measures in place for all outdoor activities during the daily sun protection times to help reduce the risk of over-exposure to UV radiation for staff and students.

**Shade**

Hume Valley Schoolwill provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

* where students congregate for lunch
* outdoor lesson areas
* popular play areas
* assembly areas
* sporting grounds

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times, particularly if they do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Hume Valley 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.

When planning excursions in warm weather staff will choose venues where adequate shade is available, ensure that appropriate protective clothing is worn and sunscreen is used​ ​effectively

**Sun protective uniform/clothing**

Hume Valley School 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:

* 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.

Hume Valley 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

**Hats**

All students and staff 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.

**Sunscreen**

Hume Valley 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 if outdoors or more frequently if swimming.

Staff members are to wash their hands before applying sunscreen to students.

At Hume Valley Schoolstudents are welcome to attend their sub school office to access sunscreen.

Students who have identified allergies to sunscreen will have an identified management plans in​ ​their​ ​medical​ ​plans.

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

**Staff role-modelling and OHS**

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.

UV radiation exposure is considered as part of our school’s risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities, i.e. UV radiation protection strategies are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

**Sunglasses**

Where practical Hume Valley 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. Hume Valley School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the health and physical education program at all 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.

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. Hume Valley School may provide families and staff with information through newsletters, noticeboards, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, and student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation

**Families and visitors**

Families and visitors participating in and attending outdoor school activities are encouraged to:

· wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;

· apply SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and

· seek shade whenever possible when outdoors.

**Community engagement**

Sun protection 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.

**Further Information and Resources**

· the Department’s Policy and Advisory Library:

o  [Sun and UV Protection Policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/sun-protection/policy)

o  [Heat Health](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/heat-health/policy)

o  [Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/outdoor-activities-and-working-outdoors/policy)

o  [Risk Management – Schools](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/risk-management-schools/policy)

o  [Shade Sails](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/shade-sails/policy)

o  [Student Dress Code](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/student-dress-code/policy)

·  [SunSmart](http://www.sunsmart.com.au/) and Cancer Council Victoria.

o  [Primary schools](https://www.sunsmart.com.au/advice-for/schools-early-childhood) free education resources, sample policies and information about the free [SunSmart Schools Program](https://www.sunsmart.com.au/advice-for/schools-early-childhood/join-the-sunsmart-program).

o  [Secondary schools](https://www.sunsmart.com.au/advice-for/secondary-schools) free education resources and sample policies.

o  [Sunscreen reactions](https://www.cancer.org.au/cancer-information/causes-and-prevention/sun-safety/about-sunscreen/sunscreen-reactions).

**REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.

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| Policy Reviewed | September 2025 |
| Consultation | Presented to School Council: |
| Endorsed by | Principal : YES  School Council: YES |
| Endorsed on | 09/09/2025 |
| Next review date | September 2028 |