



ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
No.2608

ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUNSMART POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact [insert school contact details].

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Ascot Vale PS 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 SunSmart widget on the school's website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

Ascot Vale PS has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

Shade

Ascot Vale PS will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- popular play areas
- assembly areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Ascot Vale PS 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

Ascot Vale PS recommends that from mid-August to the 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
- broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat

From 1 September to 30 April, all students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck, and ears for all outdoor activities, 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. Parents will be reminded about the start date via the Compass app and school newsletter.

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

Staff are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck, and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket.

Sunscreen

Ascot Vale PS 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](#). Students are encouraged to bring their own sunscreen to apply during the school day. Sunscreen is also available in the first aid room and is made available for physical education classes.

Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen must contact the office to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

Ascot Vale PS has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors and to bring sunscreen to outdoor activities such as camps, excursions, and sporting events.

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 Ascot Vale PS 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. Ascot Vale PS will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Victorian curriculum where appropriate.

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. These forums also provide families and staff with information, ideas, and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home.

Ascot Vale PS may provide families and staff with information through communication strategies such as newsletters, noticeboards, school website, school assemblies.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2022
Approved by	School Council 28 th November 2022
Next scheduled review date	November 2026