KINDNESS RESILIENCE
RESPECT

Fitzroy North Primary School

Sun Protection Policy

HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Fitzroy North Primary School on 03 9481 5860 or fitzroy.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Fitzroy North Primary School 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.

BACKGROUND

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later 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 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.

Shade
Fitzroy North Primary School will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, including the undercover areas outside the junior school building and the shade sail on the block.

Sun protective clothing, including hats

Fitzroy North Primary 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.

Shoe-string strapped tops and singlet tops are deemed unsuitable clothing during these periods as they provide inadequate protection from UV.

From the 20th of August to 30th of April, staff and students are required to wear sun-protective hats that protect 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

Fitzroy North 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. The school provides SPF30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student use, on a parental permission basis. We may need to revise this.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year 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 the school newsletters, assemblies, 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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Included in staff induction processes

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library:
  - Sun and UV Protection Policy
  - Duty of care
- SunSmart
- Achievement Program's SunSmart policy.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

We recognise that our school's practices must be regularly reviewed and updated in partnership with our families and local communities. We encourage you to contact the school principal with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Plan last reviewed	November 25
Consultation	November 25 – By the Policy Committee
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2029