Grey Street
Primary School Traralgon

# Grey Street Primary School Policy

| Sun Smart | Ratified by School Council: | October 2025 |
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| | Next Review: | October 2028 |

Our purpose is to empower resilient learners to think critically, actively problem solve, be respectful and positively contribute to their world.

At Grey Street that means that we are all active and resilient learners, who learn in different ways. We challenge and support each other with our learning through setting goals, working persistently, problem solving, using feedback and reflecting on our progress. We value a culture of collaboration and mutual support that is focused on achieving success for all staff, students and members of the school community.
At Grey Street Primary School we are committed to maintaining a safe and inclusive environment for everyone, everywhere, all of the time.

**Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Grey Street Primary School.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Grey Street 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, the SunSmart widget on the school's website/intranet, or bom.gov.au.

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

**Shade**

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

- where students congregate for lunch
- popular play areas.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Grey Street 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**

Grey Street 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:

Grey Street Primary School's uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- polo tops with a collar
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

From mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, 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 August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Staff and 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. Baseball or peaked caps and sun visors are not considered a suitable alternative, as they do not protect the ears, cheeks or neck. 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.

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**Sunscreen**

Grey Street 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.

At Grey Street Primary School students are welcome to attend first aid to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact their teacher or school nurse to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

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

**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.

**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.

**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 SPF30 (or higher) 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.

Families, students and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Grey Street Primary School may provide information through newsletters, school website and school assemblies.

**Further Information and Resources**

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library:
  - Sun and UV Protection Policy
  - Heat Health

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  - Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors
  - Risk Management – Schools
  - Shade Sails
  - Student Dress Code
- SunSmart and Cancer Council Victoria.
  - Primary schools free education resources, sample policies and information about the free SunSmart Schools Program.

**Review Cycle**

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| Policy last reviewed | October 2025 |
| Approved by | School Council |
| Next scheduled review date | October 2028 |