



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Altona Meadows Primary School to minimise the risk of skin and eye damage and skin cancer in all school activities, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

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 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 minimize harmful UV exposures and associated harm for 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 to 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 end of April). Information about the daily local sun protection times is available via our SunSmart widget on our website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

Altona Meadows Primary School will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as;

- The canteen
- Outdoor lesson areas
- Popular play areas
- Assembly areas

When building works of grounds maintenance is conducted at Altona Meadows Primary School that may impact on the level of shade 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

Altona Meadows Primary School 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 or skirts

Sunscreen

Altona Meadows 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 manufacturers instructions.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Altona Meadows Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of Physical Education and Health lessons.

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.

Evaluation:

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

August 2021