



BFPS SUNSMART POLICY

DUE FOR REVIEW

September 2028

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Banyan Fields Primary School that 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 Term One and Term Four)
- 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 the 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 September - 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 Term One and Term Four 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.

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

Shade

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

- the rotunda
- undercover walkway near the canteen and toilets
- undercover walkway from main building to Foundation building
- undercover walkway from main building to portables
- shade sails above Foundation playground
- shade sails above 1/2 playground
- shade sails above 3-6 playground.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Banyan Fields 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

Banyan Fields Primary School recommends that during Term One and Term Four of each year, 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.

Banyan Fields Primary 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.

During Term One and Term Four, 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 these times by parent or student choice.

Staff and students are encouraged to wear hat styles 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

Banyan Fields 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.

Banyan Fields Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. For example, classroom reminders to apply sunscreen when appropriate.

As some staff and students may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen we encourage them to supply their own sunscreen 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.

Sunglasses

Where practical Banyan Fields Primary 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. Banyan Fields Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health and Physical Education 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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| Policy last reviewed | September 2024 |
| Consultation | Consultation with School Council on September 2024 |
| Approved by | Principal |
| Next scheduled review date | September 2028 |