

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Boneo 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 at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).

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

### Shade

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

- prep courtyard
- under classroom verandah when eating lunch outdoors
- outdoor kitchen
- playgrounds

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Boneo 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**

Boneo Primary School requires students to wear the following sun-protective clothing from mid August to end of April:

- Anti-Cancer Council approved close-weave broad brimmed hats (at least 6 cm rigid brim)  
Children without broad brimmed hats will be restricted to remain indoors
- 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.

### **Sunscreen**

Boneo 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. Staff do not apply sunscreen

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

### **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- the Department's Policy Advisory Library:
  - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
  - [Duty of care](#)
- [SunSmart](#)
- [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au)

### **ENDORSEMENT**

This policy was ratified by School Council on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

### **REVIEW PERIOD**

This policy is scheduled for review in August 2023.