Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact school office on 51271512 or moe.ps.south@education.vic.gov.au.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at South 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 (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/carers 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.

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

Shade

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

- trees
- undercover areas
- shade sails over play equipment

Children without hats will be directed to play in the undercover areas near the Foundation building or the play pit.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at South 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

South Street Primary school's 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.

From mid-August to end of 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 the above time period, by parents/carer or student choice.

Staff and students are expected to wear a hat that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket.

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. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun. e.g. play pit or the undercover area near the 3/4 building.

At Moe (South Street) Primary School, we prioritize sun safety during all swimming events. To protect participants from harmful UV exposure, all swimmers **must** wear a T-shirt when out of the water. While in the water, swimmers are encouraged to wear a sun-safe rash guard or UV-protective swim shirt for optimal sun protection.

Sunscreen

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South 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.

South Street Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors for example, sunscreen monitor, staff reminding children to apply sunscreen when they grab their hats and/ or poster.

- Small tubes of sunscreen to be provided by parents and kept with the children's hat.
- Teachers to encourage the application of sunscreen as children go outside to play.
- School to provide large bottles of sunscreen for school events. Teachers to remind children every two hours to reapply 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.

Sunglasses

South Street recommends 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.

Information about recommended sunglasses to be included in the Newsletter at the end of Term 3 each year.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. South Street Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the health 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.

Engaging students, staff and families

SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
  - Sun and UV Protection Policy
  - Duty of care
- SunSmart

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Evaluation and review

Date Implemented	10/10/2022
Approval Authority (Signature and date)	10/10/2022
Dates Reviewed	20/08/ 2019, 10/10/2022 12/2/2025 (Swimming added)
Responsible for Review	Policy Committee
Next Review Date	October 2026