

SUN SMART POLICY

PURPOSE

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.
- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation.
- 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 can cause health problems including sunburn, dehydration, 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 September - April)
- peaks during school hours

A combination of sun protection measures should be put in place in Term 1 and Term 4

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

Shade

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

- where students congregate for lunch
- the community gardens.
- the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas
- assembly areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at MFG 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.

MFG's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing in Term 1 and term 4, 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.

Staff and students, particularly during Physical or Outdoor Education, Environmental Technology and outdoor excursions are to wear the MFG school cap or bucket hat. Students will be directed to wear a loan hat from the school office, so that their learning is not impacted.

Students who are not wearing the MFG hat will be asked to move into a suitable area protected from the sun. Students are expected to follow teacher direction when asked to move to a suitable area protected by the sun.

MFG encourages all staff and students to apply SPF 50+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

MFG has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (for example sunscreen is available in the Hall and in the Outdoor Ed cupboard for staff and student use, reminder notices, sunscreen monitors). Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreens are encouraged to bring 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 50+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside during terms 1 and 4.

Students at MFG are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. MFG will address sun, UV safety and Vitamin D education as part of HAPE lessons in Year 7 and 9. SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through a variety of channels such as parent/student updates, school website, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Staff are encouraged to access resources, tools, and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to promote sun smart behaviour and Vitamin D education across the school community.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
 - [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
 - [Duty of care](#)
 - [SunSmart](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

DATE OF REVIEW – December 2026-2027

Policy last reviewed	17 October 2024
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	December 2027