

SUNSMART

POLICY

Ripponlea Primary School (RPS) is a 'SunSmart School' in line with SunSmart Victoria.

PURPOSE

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

The purpose of being a 'SunSmart School' is to:

- promote an awareness of the damage caused by overexposure to the harmful ultra violet rays of the sun;
- protect students from potential sun damage and encourage safe sun exposure by practising SunSmart strategies throughout the year.

IMPLEMENTATION

To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the free [SunSmart app](#) or at sunsmart.com.au.

The following strategies will be employed from beginning of September to the end of April and whenever the UV levels reach 3 and above unless otherwise decided by the Principal.

1. All students will be expected to wear a broad brim or legionnaire RPS uniform hat that shades the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside.
2. Sun protective clothing is included in the RPS school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts. Rash vests or t-shirts are encouraged for outdoor swimming.
3. Students who do not wear an appropriate sunhat or clothing will be asked to stay in a shaded area.
4. Use of SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and wraparound sunglasses (that meet the Australian Standard 1067) will be encouraged.
5. Staff and students will be encouraged to use shade areas for outdoor activities.
 - RPS School Council makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the RPS school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.

- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities and excursions.
- 6. Staff and parents will be encouraged to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviour.
- 7. A 'Hot Day' timetable will be implemented at the Principal's discretion, enabling respite from outside conditions.
- 8. SunSmart awareness programs will be covered each year.
- 9. Outdoor activities will be planned in consideration of this policy.

CURRICULUM

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure.

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.

REFERENCES:

- The Department's Policy Advisory Library:
<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/sun-protection/policy>
- SunSmart <http://www.sunsmart.com.au>

RELATED POLICIES:

- Duty of Care
- Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Ratified by School Council: August 2020
Next review date: August 2023