

A Respectful and Responsible Learning Community  
**Sunsmart Policy**

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Great Ryrie 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 via the free SunSmart app, or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au).

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

### **Shade**

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

- Around the classrooms
- BA Hall
- Corridors between buildings
- S&PC decking
- Shade sail areas
- Tree coverage over shade sails
- Deck on new building
- The canteen

A Respectful and Responsible Learning Community  
**Sunsmart Policy**

- Popular play areas
- Assembly areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Great Ryrie 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**

Great Ryrie Primary School recommends that from mid-August to end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students come to school wearing sun-protective clothing such as:

- hats
- sunglasses
- 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.

Great Ryrie Primary School's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- hats
- 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 the beginning of term 4 to the end of term 1, 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 the August to April time period, by parent or student choice. 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**

Great Ryrie 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](#).

Great Ryrie Primary School has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors i.e. reminders on Compass and signs around the school.

At Great Ryrie Primary School students are welcome to attend the sickbay to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to supply their own personal sunscreen to be kept in their bag during school hours. Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

## **Sunsmart Policy**

### **Sunglasses**

Where practical Great Ryrie 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. 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/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Families and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Great Ryrie Primary School may provide families and staff with information through i.e. newsletters, noticeboards, school website, school assemblies.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

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

### **REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy was last updated on 28/10/2020 and is scheduled for review in October 2023.