



VIC-EDU-P-029 Sun and UV Protection Policy

1. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all MacKillop Education staff and students engaging in outdoor activities on and off-site, and is considered in the planning of all outdoor events.

2. Policy Outline

Context

Our values of respect, hope, justice, compassion, and collaboration inform the quality of relationships we establish and all that we do to ensure our learning community is a place of welcome and safety. MacKillop Education celebrates diversity, and we are committed to inclusion, so that every student, regardless of race, religion, culture, gender identity or personal circumstances, including barriers to learning, can access education and experience success.

Our model, Reframing Learning and Teaching Environments (ReLATE), supports our trauma-informed practice and highlights the critical partnership between students, parents/guardians/carers, and staff, as we work together, to enhance the learning outcomes for every child.

Purpose

This policy provides guidelines to:

- Assist all students and staff to protect themselves from overexposure to UV radiation.
- Ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff.
- Ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection.
- Support duty of care requirements.
- Support appropriate Workplace Health and Safety (WH&S) strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Policy statement

The purpose of this policy is to create school environments that support sun protection behaviours to minimise the risk of health problems from sun overexposure, including skin cancer.

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

Given students and employees are at school during peak UV times, schools play a major role in providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term SunSmart behaviour.

The MacKillop Education Sun and UV Protection Policy seeks to educate and support all students, staff, parents and visitors attending MacKillop Education about sun protection and practices to avoid skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

Principles

- MacKillop Education plays a key role in establishing safe and enduring lifelong practices in relation to sun and UV protection.
- A consistent, predictable, routine, and structured approach to sun smart thinking and practices will support, encourage, and embed responsible behaviours within our community.
- By modelling and visually communicating expected sun protective strategies students are more likely to adopt expected and safe behaviours.
- School staff have a duty of care and obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic) to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to minimise the risks to both staff and student health and safety arising from exposure to UV.

3. Procedure

To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times using the SunSmart Global UV app.

In Victoria, UV levels typically reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April. Implementation of the sun protection measures outlined below will, therefore apply during Term 1 and 4 to protect against UV exposure risk.

Sun Protection measures:

1. Seek shade.

- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are encouraged to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.

2. Slip on sun protective clothing.

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing is encouraged. This includes shirts with collars and sleeves.

3. Slap on a hat.

- All staff and students are encouraged to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket hat are preferable), whenever they are outside.

4. Slop on sunscreen.

- School will ensure SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is available for staff and students to access. The location should be communicated to all staff and students and be readily available..
- Sunscreen should be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (which state to apply at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
- Strategies are in place to encourage students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.
- Sunscreen is stored in a cool place, out of the sun and the expiry date is monitored.

5. Slide on sunglasses (if practical).

- Where practical staff and students are encouraged 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.

Raising awareness of sun protection measures:

1. Learning and Skills

- Information on sun protection and sun safety is provided in classroom activities, so that students understand why it is important and learn how to take effective actions.
- MacKillop Education staff are able to complete the Generation SunSmart online learning modules to further develop their understanding.

2. Engaging Children, Educators, Staff and Families

- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community, through a variety of communication methods.
- As part of WH&S UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses; apply sunscreen; and seek shade whenever possible.

4. Related legislation, policy, guidelines and resources

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/sun-protection/policy>

This policy document is supported by the following polices and documents:

- ARPANSA Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006)
- AS 4174:2018 Knitted and woven shade fabrics
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- AS/NZS 2604:2012 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.6.2.1: General considerations, 6.3.9: Shade and sun protection, Appendix A: Shade and sun protection
- Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: 4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product
- Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (APST) – Standard 4.4 and 7.2
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) Your Child’s Health Wellbeing and Safety (Primary)
- Department of Education
 - - Sun and UV Protection
 - Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors
- Generation SunSmart. (n.d.). *Online Learning*. [online] Available at: <https://www.generationsunsmart.com.au/online-learning/> [Accessed 10 Nov. 2023].
- Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) Managing a school – Health & Safety Compliance Framework: OHS >Sun Protection
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers (2020)
- Sunsmart (2019). *Prevent skin cancer & sunburn this summer - SunSmart*. [online] Prevent skin cancer & sunburn this summer - SunSmart. Available at: <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/>.
- SunSmart Global UV app

- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) (May 2016)
- Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct - Principle 3.2
- Victorian School Building Authority Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 5.1.4 Shade Areas (2018)

5. Approval and Review Details

Approval and Review	Details
Approval Authority	Group Director, The MacKillop Institute and MacKillop Education
Approval Date	14 November 2023
Recommended to Approval Authority by	MacKillop Education Leadership Team
Next Review Date	1 December 2026
Version	2