



# Sunsmart Policy

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Victorian College for the Deaf 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).

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

### Shade

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

- Secondary quadrangle area
- Primary portables outdoor area
- Shaded trees in front of primary playground
- Tradeblock cafe

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Victorian College for the Deaf 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**

Victorian College for the Deaf's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

Primary students must wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities all year round.

Victorian College for the Deaf expects our secondary students to take responsibility for being SunSmart by wearing a hat during outdoor activities or stay in the shade, if they are not wearing sunscreen.

Staff and students are encouraged to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, such as a bucket hat.

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**

Victorian College for the Deaf encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

Victorian College for the Deaf have strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors [i.e. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies].

At Victorian College for the Deaf students are welcome to attend the office to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact Jet Atlas to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

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

Where practical Victorian College for the Deaf 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. Victorian College for the Deaf will address sun and UV safety education as part of Health Education classes.

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.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to the school community via:

- School website
- Staff induction and handbook

## REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in September 2019 and is scheduled for review in **September 2023**. It was approved by School Council on: 19/09/19

