

## INTRODUCTION

It is a primary purpose of the College to treat all people with dignity and respect and provide an educational environment that is safe, supportive and inclusive.

## AIM

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Bairnsdale Secondary College 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 to the 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 from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria)
- 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. 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).

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

Document Name: Sun Protection Policy Reviewer: Principal	Review Schedule: every 4 years Date of last review: 1/6/2023 School Council Approval on: 15/6/2023	Page 1 of 3 Uncontrolled version when printed
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## Shade

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

- where students congregate for lunch
- the canteen
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular outdoor areas
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds.

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times, particularly if they do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Bairnsdale Secondary College that affect 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

Bairnsdale Secondary College's school uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- loose, cool, densely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts
- bucket hats.

Bairnsdale Secondary College's *Student Dress Code Policy* applies on and off-site unless otherwise advised. When students are not required to wear school uniform (such as school camps, free dress day), the College will ensure steps are taken to encourage students to wear sun-protective clothing whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

## Hats

As we are a secondary school, we expect students to take responsibility for their sun safety by wearing a hat during outdoor activities and adopting other sun protection measures such as wearing sunscreen or using shade.

Students wear the school bucket hat or another hat that protects the face, head, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat. Baseball or peaked caps and sun visors are not considered a suitable alternative, as they do not protect the ears, cheeks or neck.

## Sunscreen

Bairnsdale Secondary College 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.

At Bairnsdale Secondary College, students are welcome to attend their Learning Hub to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact their Learning Hub to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction at school.

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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 Bairnsdale Secondary College 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 and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school. Bairnsdale Secondary College will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum.

### Staff role-modelling and OHS

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.

UV radiation exposure is considered as part of our school's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities, for example UV radiation protection strategies are included in school camp activities, excursions, sports days and interschool sports events.

### Families and visitors

Families and visitors participating in and attending outdoor school activities are encouraged to:

- wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses
- apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, and
- seek shade whenever possible when outdoors.

### Community engagement

Sun protection 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, students and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Bairnsdale Secondary College may provide information through newsletters, noticeboards, school website and school assemblies.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy Advisory Guide:
  - Sun and UV Protection Policy
  - Duty of care
- SunSmart
- Common Law Duty of Care
- BSC Student Dress Code Policy

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