

SUNSMART POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Endeavour Hills Specialist School on 9113 4100

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Endeavour Hills Specialist 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 or bom.gov.au.

Endeavour Hills Specialist School has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

Shade

Endeavour Hills Specialist School will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- where students congregate for lunch
- outdoor lesson areas
- play areas
- assembly areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Endeavour Hills Specialist 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

Endeavour Hills Specialist 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:

- 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.

Endeavour Hills Specialist School's uniform and dress code includes sun-protective clothing, including:

- 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.

From mid-August (exact date to be set by the school annually) to 30 April, 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.

We encourage secondary school students to take responsibility for being SunSmart by wearing a school hat during outdoor activities or staying 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, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket.

Students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. 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

Endeavour Hills Specialist 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](#).

Endeavour Hills Specialist School staff will encourage children to apply sunscreen themselves and, where appropriate, will assist the children in applying sunscreen before going outdoors.

A letter will be sent to parents each year, requesting consent for staff to assist students in the application of sunscreen. The school will supply a generic sunscreen brand.

Students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreens will be required to supply their own sunscreen and identify, on the consent form, any special instructions. The consent form will include a section for allergies and any other special instructions regarding the use and application of sunscreen.

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 Endeavour Hills Specialist 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.

Sensory consideration

Endeavour Hills Specialist School recognise the individual needs of our students, we understand that students may not tolerate certain sun protective items, such as a hat or sunscreen. Where this is the case, students will not be excluded from outdoor play. All precautions will be taken to prevent sun damage to skin; therefore, an individual plan will be prepared to include initiatives such as playing in shaded areas and limiting sun exposure times. An important part of the individual plan will be setting goals for using sun protection, such as working towards wearing a hat.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Endeavour Hills Specialist School will address sun and UV safety education at the teachers discretion as part of class activities, utilising resources from the education tab on the SunSmart website, teachers will deliver sun safety education at a level suitable to the learner.

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. Endeavour Hills Specialist School may provide families and staff with information through School newsletters for students and families and internal communication for staff

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed in student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	February 2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	February 2026