



Burwood East Special Developmental School

SunSmart Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact school on 03 9803 4590.

At Burwood East Special Developmental School (BESDS), we consider the health, safety and wellbeing of all children and young people to be our highest priority. We strive to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people at our school at all times. We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and consistently. We are committed to creating a safe, respectful and inclusive school environment where all students can be happy, confident and resilient, regardless of their sexual or gender identity, cultural background disability or other circumstances. We take account of the diversity of all children, including the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities and vulnerable children.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Burwood East Special Developmental School (BESDS) 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 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.

Burwood East Special Developmental School has the following measures in place to help reduce the risk of excessive UV sun exposure for staff and students.

Shade

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

- where students congregate for breaks
- popular play areas in the Primary section and the Secondary section
- assembly areas

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Burwood East Special Developmental 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

BESDS 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 or the Burwood East Special Developmental School's uniform 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 1st August to 30th April, 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. 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

BESDS 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](#).

BESDS has strategies in place to remind and assist students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (for example, child friendly posters reminding students to wear sunscreen).

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. BESDS will address sun and UV safety education using resources developed by staff for our students. 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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website <https://www.besds.vic.edu.au/>
- 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	3 rd November 2022
Approved by School Council	04/11/2022
Next scheduled review date	November 2025