



SUNSMART POLICY

RATIONALE

A balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure early in life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Trafalgar High 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 SunSmart widget on the school's website or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Trafalgar High 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 Clothing/Hats

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform and sports uniforms. During Physical Education, students are to wear sunscreen and bucket style hats.

Sunscreen

Trafalgar High 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](#).

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

Sunglass

Where practical Trafalgar High 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.

COMMUNICATION

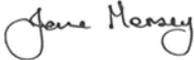
This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- 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	11/05/2022
Approved by	 Signed:  Signed: School Council President Principal Tanya Megaw Jane Mersey
Next scheduled review date	11/05/2026