



MORDIALLOC COLLEGE

A better choice in education

SunSmart Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Mordialloc 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 – 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 Mordialloc College website, the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

Mordialloc 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 play areas
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds/pools

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Mordialloc College 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

Mordialloc College 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 which is included in our school uniform and PE / Sports Uniform:

- The summer uniform/dress code includes a shirt with at least elbow length sleeves and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone. The summer uniform/dress code includes longer style dresses, shorts/ pants at least to the knee.
- The PE/sport uniform/dress code includes a shirt that covers the shoulders well and a collar that sits close to the neck, above the collarbone.
- The PE/sport uniform includes longer style shorts/ pants at least to the mid-thigh.
- Students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (i.e. broad brimmed or bucket hats), whenever they are participating in activities outside. A broad brimmed or bucket hat is a compulsory part of the PE /Sport uniform and must be worn.
- Staff on Yard duty during Term 1 and Term 4 will role model by wearing a broad brimmed hat or use an umbrella / parasol when on yard duty. At recess and lunchtime students will be asked to sit in the shade or to put on sunscreen and/or wear a hat.

Sunscreen

Mordialloc 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](#).

Mordialloc College staff encourage students to use sunscreen and provide time for students to apply sunscreen before going outside. Sunscreen will be available in every staffroom for staff to access and carry whilst on Yard duty to offer to students.

At Mordialloc College students are welcome to attend [sick bay, general office, year level coordinator office] to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact general office staff – Julia Agar-Wilson, 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 Mordialloc 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. Mordialloc College will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Year 7 Health curriculum.

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

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

Review Cycle:

This policy was last updated on **August 2020** and is scheduled for review in **August 2023**.