

 <p><b>DONCASTER</b> SECONDARY COLLEGE</p> <p><i>Working together, learning together</i></p>	<h2 style="color: #800000;">SUN PROTECTION POLICY</h2>
<p>College council will review this policy every 3 – 4 years or as directed by DET</p>	<p><b>Date approved:</b> March 2023</p>
	<p><b>Date of next review:</b> 2026</p>

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support sun protection behaviours at Doncaster Secondary College to minimise the risk of health problems from sun overexposure, including 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

Overexposure 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 damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

Increasing the awareness of all members of the College community to the dangers of ultraviolet (UV) radiation and to protective measures which can be taken may ultimately reduce the risk of injury occurring.

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](http://sunsmart.com.au) or [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au)

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

**Shade**

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

- the canteen
- shade sails in quadrangles
- building eaves
- wellbeing garden shade sail

Doncaster Secondary College expects 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.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Doncaster Secondary 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.

Maximum use of indoor and shaded facilities / areas will be made at times of high risk. The Sports and Physical Educational Co-ordinators, in conjunction with the Administration, may decide on days of extreme risk of skin and eye damage to modify outdoor exposure time or to suspend all non-essential outdoor activities.

**Sun Protective Uniform / Clothing**

When students wear the uniform correctly as is communicated in the College planner, Doncaster Secondary College meets the required standards for sun protective uniforms and clothing. Our uniform options include:

- loose, cool, densely woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts

The College Uniform code includes a College sports cap which should be worn during outdoor Physical Education and Sport in Terms 1 and 4. Students will be advised to wear protective sunglasses at times of prolonged exposure to the sun during appropriate physical education and sport sessions

Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat may be asked to relocate to a suitable area protected from the sun.

**Sunscreen**

Doncaster Secondary College encourages all staff and students to apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen daily, when outdoors. Sunscreen should be applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours (or more frequently if sweating or swimming).

Students and staff are reminded and encouraged to bring their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to school.

At Doncaster Secondary College, if students do not have their own sunscreen, they are welcome to attend the Health Centre to access sunscreen.

**Sunglasses**

Doncaster 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. Doncaster Secondary College will address sun and UV safety education as part of the Health and Physical Education 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.

**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, i.e. 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. Doncaster Secondary College may provide information through school assemblies, bulletins and newsletters.

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
- 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](#)
  - [Heat Health](#)
  - [Outdoor Activities and Working Outdoors](#)
  - [Risk Management – Schools](#)
  - [Shade Sails](#)
  - [Student Dress Code](#)
- [SunSmart](#) and Cancer Council Victoria.
  - [SunSmart Schools Program](#).
  - [Secondary schools](#) free education resources and sample policies.
  - [Sunscreen reactions](#).