

Ringwood Secondary College

Sun Protection Policy



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Ringwood Secondary College on (03) 9870 2002.

Ringwood Secondary College is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe and child-friendly organisation. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools to ensure they are well prepared to keep children and young people safe and protect them from abuse. [Ministerial Order 1359](#) provides the framework for child safety in schools.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Ringwood Secondary College to prevent and limit the risks associated with sun exposure.

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 to the end of April in Victoria)
- ensure access to 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.

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
- 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. Information about the daily local sun protection times are available via the free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

SHADE

The Facilities and Resources Committees monitor provision of adequate shade in the College grounds, in order to provide adequate sun protected areas, particularly where students congregate. The Facilities and Resources Committees also ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds. Students are encouraged to use shade when outside, particularly if they are not wearing appropriate hats or clothing.

SUN PROTECTIVE UNIFORM/CLOTHING

Ringwood Secondary College's school 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

As we are a secondary school, we expect students to take responsibility for their sun safety by wearing the College hat during outdoor activities and adopting other sun protection measures such as wearing sunscreen or using shade.

SUNSCREEN

Ringwood Secondary 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 (or more frequently if sweating or swimming).

At Ringwood Secondary College students are welcome to attend First Aid to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the School Nurse to implement a management plan, including bringing their own sunscreen) 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 Ringwood 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. Ringwood Secondary College will address sun and UV safety education within the Health curriculum across Year 8.

STAFF ROLE-MODELLING AND OH&S

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 the 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.

Communication

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

- available publicly on our school's website
- included in staff handbook/manual
- reminders in our school newsletter
- hard copy available from school administration upon request

Further information and resources

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [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](#)

[Secondary schools](#) free education resources and sample policies

[Sunscreen reactions](#)

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	20 March 2024
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	March 2027