

Sun and UV Protection Policy



Date Approved by Committee of Management:	14/08/2023
Date for Review:	14/08/2026

PURPOSE

To create environments and encourage behaviours to minimise the risk of skin cancer.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, students and others attending the programs and activities at Beechworth Montessori.

POLICY STATEMENT

Beechworth Montessori will:

- encourage and support students to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff, so that the benefits of being outdoors can be enjoyed whilst minimising risk of UV exposure
- encourage all staff and visitors to follow sun protection measures during peak UV months, as positive role models
- educate staff and parents/guardians on risks of overexposure to UV in childhood and adolescence
- maintain best practice policy and procedures and provide access to current evidence-based information, resources, advice and support on sun and UV protection.

PROCEDURE

This policy will apply from the 1st of September until the 30th of April each year. During this period a combination of sun protection measures are to be used for all outdoor activities. Activities can be school based or off site.

Educators are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au or on the free SunSmart app to assist with the implementation of this policy.

1. Shade

- a) Beechworth Montessori ensures there is enough shelters and trees providing shade in the outdoor area.
- b) The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- c) Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- d) Children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the alcoves in the Cycle 2 and 3 playground and under the verandah in the Cycle 1 playground.

2. General skin protection strategies

- a) All children are required to wear broad brimmed hats which protect the face, neck and ears when outside, i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats. Caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative. It is the parent's responsibility to provide a suitable hat as outlined above. It is the educator's responsibility to ensure the child/ren wear the hat when required.
- b) When outside, children are encouraged to wear loose fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible. Clothing made from cool densely woven fabric is recommended. Sleeveless tops are not permitted.

3. Sunscreen

- a) SPF 50+ or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is available for educators and children's use. Children are to apply sunscreen before lunch and outside activities.
- b) We ask that children apply a SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before coming to school.
- c) When enrolling their child, families are required to give permission for their child to use sunscreen provided by the school. Where a parent specifically requests an exemption from applying sunscreen to their child due perhaps to their cultural beliefs or an allergy, the parent will need to ensure that the child brings appropriate clothing and educators/staff members will need to ensure that the child is wearing this clothing and plays in shaded areas.

4. Educators/Staff Role Modelling

As part of OH&S UV risk controls and role-modelling, when the UV is 3 and above, educators/staff:

- a) Wear sun protective hats and clothing that covers shoulders when outside.
- b) Apply SPF 50+ or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
- c) Seek shade whenever possible.

5. Education

Students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills (slip, slop, slap, seek, slide) to help them to be responsible for their own protection.

6. Heat

Extreme heat or heatwave is a period of unusual and uncomfortable hot weather that can negatively affect health. Children and young people are more susceptible to heat stress therefore schools must be able to recognise and treat heat related illness and have strategies to manage prolonged periods of extreme heat.

To minimise the risks associated with extreme hot weather schools must review and where practicable and appropriate implement the following:

- Rearrange activity schedule to minimise physical exertion in the heat.
- Keep the classroom as cool as possible by using ceiling fans and closing blinds.
- Consider using cooler parts of the school eg the school hall.
- Make sure children seek shade during outdoor sessions.
- Ensure water is freely available to all.
- Educate and encourage children and staff to stay hydrated.
- Recommend that parents include ice-blocks in children's lunchboxes.
- Watch for signs of heat-related illness and if mild, remove child from heat and initiate cooling, if more severe seek immediate medical assistance.
- Outdoor sports should be modified to increase rest periods or postponed during extreme heat or heatwave conditions.

RELATED POLICIES

- OH&S Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Administration of First Aid Policy

RESOURCES

- <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/>
- DET School Policy & Advisory Guide – Sun and UV Protection
- Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) Managing a school – Health & Safety Compliance Framework: OHS Sun Protection
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) (May 2016)
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/heat-health/policy>
- <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/uploads/6188af0af90005a3259292362b80d348.pdf>

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)
- Children's Services Act 1996
- Children's Services Regulations 2009
- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for children)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167: Protection from harm and hazards
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011