



Thomastown West Primary School Smart Policy 2020 - 2024

Thomastown West Primary School motto is **Together Working on Pathways to Success**. At Thomastown West Primary School we want every child to achieve their full potential and we know that parents share this goal. Student health and sun safety is paramount in our considerations as a school.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Thomastown West Primary 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 at Thomastown West Primary School.

DEFINITION

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

POLICY

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 on the free Sun Smart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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



Thomastown West Primary School Smart Policy 2020 - 2024

Shade

Thomastown West Primary School will provide sufficient options for shelter and trees to provide shade on school grounds, particularly in places such as:

- where students congregate for lunch
- outdoor lesson areas
- popular play areas such as playgrounds
- assembly areas
- sporting grounds

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Thomastown West Primary 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 uniform/clothing

Thomastown West Primary School recommends that from October to end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students come to school wearing sun-protective clothing such as:

- 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
- a wide brim hat/ bucket or legionnaire style hat to be worn in terms 1 and 4

Thomastown West Primary School'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

Hats must also be worn for all outdoor activities outside during Term One and Term Four.

Staff and students are expected to wear hat styles that protect the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket.

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

Sunscreen

Thomastown West Primary 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](#).

To avoid staff and students that may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen we encouraged staff and students to bring their own sunscreen from home to use at school.



Thomastown West Primary School Smart Policy 2020 - 2024

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

Sunglasses

Where practical Thomastown West Primary 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.

Curriculum

Students at our school are encouraged to make healthy choices, and are supported to understand the benefits and risks of sun exposure. Thomastown West Primary School will address sun and UV safety education as part of the School's Health and Wellbeing Program.

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

Sun Smart 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 and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Thomastown West Primary School may provide families and staff with information through newsletters, noticeboards, school website, school assemblies.

MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- TWPS Student Dress Code Policy

EVALUATION

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the Thomastown West Primary School four year policy review cycle

Date Implemented	2016 2020
Author	Principal Assistant Principal TWPS Leadership Team First Aid Officer
Approved By	School Council
Date Reviewed	October 2016; October 2020
Responsible for Review	Assistant Principal
Review Date	1/5/2024
References	Victorian Government Schools Policy Advisory Guide