



SUNSMART & HEAT

Policy - 2022

RATIONALE:

Baden Powell College Sunsmart & Heat policy has been developed with the assistance of the cancer council of Victoria (ccv), to ensure that all students and staff attending this school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun. It is to be implemented throughout the year with particular emphasis placed from September through to the end of April.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Baden Powell 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 from September 1st – April 30th)
- 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.

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions. it is applicable to all students and staff.

IMPLEMENTATION:

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 free SunSmart app, or at sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

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

Shade

Baden Powell 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

When building works/ grounds maintenance is conducted at Baden Powell College that may impact on the level of shading available to staff and students, a review of the shaded areas available will be conducted.

Students without a hat will be first directed to a shaded area in front of the administration/ Library building (Tarneit) and outside the staff room and arts building (DH). On the first instance of this a Compass/ parent notification will be made. Second day without a hat a phone call home will be made by the classroom teacher or homeroom teacher.

When weather is deemed to be excessive , and extreme weather timetable will be enforced for students protection.

Sun protective uniform/clothing

Baden Powell 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

From September to 30 April:

- All P-6 students **must** wear a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Hats may also be worn for all outdoor activities outside of the September to April time period, by parent or student choice. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.
- All year 7-9 students are expected to take responsibility for being SunSmart by wearing a school hat during outdoor activities or staying in the shade.

Sunscreen

Baden Powell 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. Baden Powell College has strategies in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside. It is the parents responsibility to send sunscreen for their child and teach them to apply themselves. **Please note teachers will not apply sunscreen to the students.**

Sunglasses

Where practical Baden Powell 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. Baden Powell College will address sun and UV safety education as part of 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.