

# **GREATER SHEPPARTON SECONDARY COLLEGE**

## **SUNSMART POLICY**

Approval Date:	11 June 2025	Approved by:	School Council
Review Cycle:	Four (4) years	Next Review Date:	June 2029
Responsible for Review:	School Leadership	Initial Endorsement Date:	May 2022

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Greater Shepparton Secondary 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 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**

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

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

## Shade

Greater Shepparton Secondary 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

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors during peak sun protection times, particularly if they do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing.

When building works or grounds maintenance is conducted at Greater Shepparton 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.

## Hats

As we are a secondary school, we expect students to take responsibility for their sun safety by wearing a hat during outdoor activities and adopting other sun protection measures such as wearing sunscreen or using shade. Students wear a school hat or a hat that protects the face, head, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed or bucket hat.

Baseball or peaked caps and sun visors are not considered a suitable alternative, as they do not protect the ears, cheeks or neck.

Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or hats will be asked to use available areas of shade when outdoors or a suitable area protected from the sun.

## Sunscreen

Greater Shepparton 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 according to [manufacturer's instructions](#).

At Greater Shepparton Secondary College students are welcome to attend House Reception to access sunscreen. Staff and students who may suffer from allergic reactions from certain types of sunscreen are encouraged to contact the First Aid Officer to implement a management plan to reduce the risk of

an allergic reaction at school. Sunscreen is provided for students at camps, excursions and sporting events.

Students and staff are reminded and encouraged to bring their own SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to school.

Staff and families should role model SunSmart behaviour and are encouraged to apply SPF 50 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

## Sunglasses

Where practical, Greater Shepparton 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. Greater Shepparton Secondary College will address sun and UV safety education as part of Core Health and Physical Education Program at Year 7 and Year 8, and within the Social & Emotional Curriculum and Year 9 and Year 10.

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 SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and
- seek shade whenever possible when outdoors.

## Community engagement

SunSmart 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.

The Greater Shepparton Secondary College SunSmart policy is published in the Staff Handbook and staff are regularly encouraged to model SunSmart behaviours to our students and families.

## COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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