

**Upcoming Dates:**

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
7/10 First day Term 4	8/10	9/10	10/10	11/10 No Swimming
14/10	15/10	16/10	17/10	18/10 Swimming
21/10	22/10 School Council	23/10	24/10	25/10 Swimming
28/10	29/10	30/10	31/10	1/11 Swimming
4/11 Pupil Free Day	5/11 Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	6/11	7/11	8/11 Swimming
11/11	12/11	13/11	14/11	15/11 Swimming

**Important reminders:**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November:** Pupil Free Day – no students at school

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November:** No School - Public Holiday

**Bus Phone Numbers:**

- Casterton 0448 257 683
- Macarthur 0427 808 109

**Our School Vision**



Hamilton Parklands School's vision is to prepare young people to become active, engaged, and responsible citizens of the local communities. We provide learning experiences that allow our students to reach their full potential, socially, emotionally, and academically. At Hamilton Parklands School we provide a positive culture, which is a safe, inclusive and stimulating environment for all.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are in term four and please be ready – it is a long term. By the end of term three we had several students and staff unwell, so hopefully the last two weeks have given everyone the chance to rest and get better.

We have had no changes in our staff over the holidays, so Waratah Group are lucky enough to have Julie and me as teachers across the week. All our usual programs will continue, with swimming on Friday, Waratah going to the gym on Thursday and Gumnuts enjoying their exercise session on Thursday.

Our school values are “Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible”. You can help your child practice and learn these values by encouraging them to:

- Pack their own lunch
- Pack their own bag
- Share their diary with you
- Pack their own swimming gear into the school bag
- Remind them of the need for personal space
- Wear a hat

Together we can teach our values, which will support our students through school, developing friendships and getting ready for adult life.

Our students are starting to think about designing and developing a sport uniform for school. The students will be working on this idea this term and once we have some design ideas we will share with families. This is a long-term project, and we want our students to be able to have a say in this. Watch this space.

We are also going to review our school uniform. The current company we are buying our uniforms from has a minimum number of items we can order, and it is becoming more difficult to get enough orders, as students grow and share their outgrown uniforms with others. Once we have some ideas we will consult School Council, families, staff and students for preferences. We will slowly transition from the old uniform to a new one, so don't throw your old uniforms away yet.

Have a wonderful term, keep an eye on the newsletters for upcoming dates and information and please stay safe and well.

Mrs Holden

# General News:

## School Swimming Program:

The school swimming program is not optional. All students are expected to swim every week.

Please make sure your child brings their bathers, we have had a lot of students who are choosing to forget their swimming things.

If your child does not have their things for swimming, we will be ringing you to bring them in.



## Term 4 - Hats must be worn outside:

Hamilton Parklands School is a Sunsmart School.

All students and staff are required to wear a hat whilst outside during terms 1 and 4. Most students have left their hats at school over the winter months, so we will make sure they are worn.

If your child's hat has gone home please make sure it is sent back into school.

No hat – No play: Students who do not have a hat will be required to sit in the shade whilst outside.

Please make sure your child has a hat, and speak to them about our sunsmart policy which is attached to the newsletter.



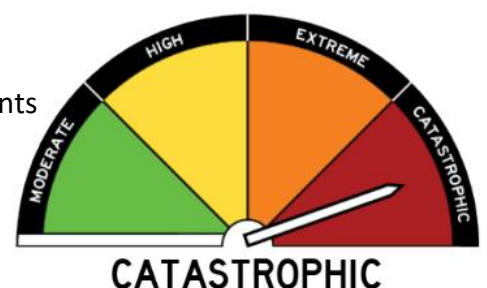
## Bush Fire Awareness arrangements at HPS:

Hamilton Parklands School is classified as a Category 4 for bushfire:

Category 4 – what this means:

- If our fire weather district, declares a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating the following will happen.
  1. The school must be closed on a “Catastrophic Fire Danger” day.
  2. Families & staff will receive a text message, an email and a note via their children. This notification will be that the school will be closed for the duration of the fire danger declaration period eg. 1 day
  3. The bus contractors will be notified by the school.
  4. Once notified, this closure will not be altered, regardless of a change in weather conditions.
  5. School and bus services will recommence as set out in the notifications.

- If you have any questions with regard to these arrangements please do not hesitate to contact the school.





## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Hamilton Parklands School 03 55723 077 or [hamilton.sds@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:hamilton.sds@education.vic.gov.au)

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage behaviours at Hamilton Parklands 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.

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

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

## Shade

Hamilton Parklands 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
- 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 Hamilton Parklands 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

Hamilton Parklands 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
- longer style shorts and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

From 1 September to 30 April, all 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 August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Staff and students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects 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

Hamilton Parklands School encourages all staff and students to apply SPF50 (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](#).

Hamilton Parklands School 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 SPF0 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when outside.

## Sunglasses

Where practical Hamilton Parklands 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 and are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school. Hamilton Parklands School will address sun and UV safety education as part of Health lessons.

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

Sun protection 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, students and staff are provided with information, ideas and practical strategies to support UV safety at school and at home. Hamilton Parklands School may provide information through communication strategies i.e. newsletters, noticeboards.

## 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)
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library:
  - [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.
  - [Primary schools free education resources, sample policies and information about the free SunSmart Schools Program.](#)
  - [Secondary schools free education resources and sample policies.](#)
  - [Sunscreen reactions.](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
Approved by	School Council 20/8/2024
Next scheduled review date	Before August 2027