



Sun Protection Policy

Wembley Downs Primary School

Where did this policy come from?

Sun Smart assists schools/services to meet their regulatory and duty of care requirements in sun protection. They also assist schools/services to meet their OHS obligations in UV risk reduction for staff. We ensure our policy has been developed, reviewed and approved by Sun-Smart and Cancer Council Western Australia, world leaders in skin cancer prevention.

Why does my child have to wear a hat outdoors and put on sunscreen?

UV damage also causes sunburn, tanning, premature ageing and eye damage. UV radiation isn't like the sun's light or heat, which we can see and feel. That means we usually don't notice the damage until it's too late. The UV level can be as high on a cold or cloudy day as it is when it is a scorching hot day. By wearing a hat and slapping on sunscreen your child is doing a lot to protect themselves from the harmful rays of the sun.

What is my child learning from wearing a hat?

We believe all students need to develop safe and protective habits in their life. The slip, slop slap campaign is a major driving force across Australia in achieving these goals.

What happens when my child doesn't wear a hat?

Our school motto is no hat, play in shady areas outdoors.

Students can be directed to shady areas of the school to play which includes the shade sails areas. Students can also be directed to the veranda areas when not wearing a uniform hat.

What type of hat does my child need to wear?

We require students to wear broad-brimmed or bucket hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions.

Does the Sun Smart council assist schools?

Sun Smart assists schools/services to meet their regulatory and duty of care requirements in sun protection. They also assist schools/services to meet their OHS obligations in UV risk reduction for staff. We ensure our policy has been developed, reviewed and approved by Sun-Smart and Cancer Council Western Australia, world leaders in skin cancer prevention.

Rationale

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Overexposure to the sun during childhood and adolescent is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. As students are at school during times of peak ultraviolet (UV) radiation, schools can play a major role in creating a supportive environment that minimises exposure and encourages sun protective behaviours.

Our sun protection policy has been adopted to ensure that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending Wembley Downs Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. This policy is to be implemented when the forecast average monthly UV Index in our area is 3 or above (available from www.bom.gov.au). The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. The policy has been developed in consultation with the whole school community.

Our Commitment

Wembley Downs Primary School will:

Inform parents of this sun protection policy when they enrol their child/children and brief all new staff on the sun protection policy.

- Promote sun protection via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.
- Require students to wear broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hats when outside.
- Direct students without a broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hat to stay in an area that is protected from the sun.
- Require staff to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats for all outdoor activities, including yard duty.
- Encourage parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
- Require students to wear broad-brimmed or bucket hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.
- Require staff and students to wear a swim (*rash*) top for swimming (this may not be appropriate during competitive swimming).
- Review the school dress code to include sun protective items such as shirts with collars and longer sleeves, and swim tops for swimming.
- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, by planting trees and building shade structures. Particularly in areas where students congregate, for example, lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Timetable as many outdoor activities as possible - including assemblies, sport and physical education – when the UV Index is below 3. When this is not possible activities should be scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible.
- Encourage the use of SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen by:
 - listing sunscreen as an item students are required to buy for the school year.
 - providing sunscreen in the classroom.
 - allowing students time to apply sunscreen 20 minutes prior to outdoor activities e.g. prior to school, before lunch, PE lessons, sports, excursions etc.
- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.
- Review the sun protection policy annually.

Our Expectations

Parents/carers will:

Ensure your child/children has a broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat.

Cancer Council WA recommends the following hats:

- broad-brimmed (7.5 cm brim)
- legionnaire-style
- bucket/surfie-style (6 cm brim)

Ensure that your child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation. Cancer Council WA recommends the following:

- collars and sleeves
- closely woven fabric
- natural fibre
- swim (*rash*) tops for swimming.
- Ensure that your child/children has/have access to SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before leaving for school.
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour.
- Support the school's sun protection policy, and help design and regularly update the policy.

Students will:

- Be aware of the school's sun protection policy.
- Take responsibility for their health by being SunSmart.
- Comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing.
- Apply SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Use shaded or covered areas outdoors.
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.
- Be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.
- Help design and regularly update the SunSmart policy.
- Participate in SunSmart education programs.

Evaluation

Wembley Downs PS School Board will review the effectiveness of this policy each year and make any necessary changes.

They will:

1. Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents, and visitors and make recommendations for improvement.
2. Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision.
3. Update and promote curriculum material relevant to SunSmart activities.