Woodbury Boston Primary School
Policy and Procedures

SUN PROTECTION

Last reviewed: August 2014
Endorsed by GB: October 2014
Next review due: August 2015

WBPS Sun Protection Policy

Rationale

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer. As students are at school during times when UV radiation levels are highest, schools play a major role in minimising student's UV exposure.

Our Sun Protection policy has been adopted to ensure that all staff and children attending Woodbury Boston Primary School are protected as much as possible from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. This policy is to be implemented throughout the year, but with particular emphasis from the beginning of September through to the end of May. The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including excursions and camps. The policy has been developed in consultation with the whole school community.

Our Commitment

Woodbury Boston Primary School will
- Inform parents of this Sun Protection policy when they enrol their child/children.
- Promote sun protection via newsletters and parent and staff meetings.
- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, by planting trees and building shade structures if necessary.
- Include sun protection education as part of school activities at least once per year.
- Encourage role modelling of sun protective behaviour by staff, parents and guests.
- Require staff and students wear a sun protective hat when outside from September to May.
- Direct children without a sun protective hat to play in an area that is protected from the sun (inside or on a veranda) from September to May
- Require staff and students to wear a rash vest or shirt, with sleeves, for outdoor swimming
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.
- Ensure that adequate shade is available or provided at off-campus outdoor events, where possible
- Encourage the use of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen by:
    - providing sunscreen in the classroom.
    - allowing students time to apply sunscreen 20 minutes prior to extended outdoor activities.
- Review the Sun Protection policy annually.

Our Expectations

Parents/carers will:

- Provide a sun protective hat for your child/children for use at school. Sun-protective hats must be:
    - broad-brimmed (7.5 cm brim);
    - legionnaire-style; or
    - bucket-style (6 cm brim)

Please note – caps are not suitable and do not provide adequate sun protection.

- Ensure that your child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation. The Cancer Council WA recommends the following:
    - collars and sleeves
    - closely woven fabric
    - natural fibre
    - rash vest or shirts for outdoor swimming.
- Act as positive role models by practising sun protective 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 following the school's Sun Protection policy.
- Comply with sun protection guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing.
- Apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before extended outdoor activities.
- Use shaded or covered areas outdoors.
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of sun protection behaviour.
- Help design and regularly update the Sun Protection policy.
- Participate in Sun Protection education programs.

Evaluation

School staff will review the effectiveness of this policy each year.
They will:
1. Review the Sun Smart 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 if necessary.
3. Update and promote curriculum material relevant to sun protection activities.