

**Woodbury Boston Primary School  
Policy and Procedures**

**Sun Protection Policy**

**Introduction:** This policy outlines the steps the school takes to protect students and staff from damage from sun exposure.

**Scope:** This policy is operations directed. WBPS academic and administrative staff have responsibilities under this policy. This policy will be reviewed and amended annually, or as required. *(See below for policy review dates)*

**Related Legislation / Guidelines:** School Education Act 1999; School Education Regulations 2000; Registration Standards and Other Requirements for Non-Government Schools 2022 (or most current version); Cancer Council Sun Protection Guidelines

**Related Policies and Procedures:** Excursions, Occupational Safety and Health, and Student Health Care Policies.

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**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. The good news is that skin cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer in Australia. As students are at school during times when UV radiation levels are highest, schools play a major role in minimising student's UV exposure.

**Policy Statement**

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Woodbury Boston Primary School ensures that school activities and excursions are scheduled to limit the exposure of students and staff to UV radiation from the sun, as much as is practicable. When exposure is unavoidable, protective measures are implemented. This policy is to be implemented throughout the year. The sun protection practices outlined in the related procedures are applied to all school activities. The policy was developed in consultation with the whole school community.

**Last reviewed:** August 2023  
**Endorsed by GB:** September 2023  
**Next review due:** August 2024

# Sun Protection Procedure

## Our Commitment

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Woodbury Boston Primary School will:

- Inform parents of this Sun Protection policy and procedures on enrolment, and via the school website.
- Promote sun protection via newsletters and parent and staff meetings.
- Include sun protection education as part of school activities at least once per year.
- Ensure there is adequate shade within the school grounds for students and staff by planting trees and building shade structures if necessary.
- 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.
- Use daily UV forecast checks from June to August and require staff and students to wear a sun protective hat while outside when the UV is moderate (3) or above. (As requested by and negotiated with the students in Parliament)
- Direct children without a sun protective hat when required to stay in an area that is protected from the sun (inside or on a veranda).
- Require staff and students to wear a rash vest or long-sleeved shirt for outdoor swimming
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas.
- Schedule off-campus outdoor activities to avoid the time of day when the UV radiation is strongest, where possible.
- Ensure that adequate shade is available or provided at off-campus outdoor events, where possible.
- Encourage the use of SPF 30+ (or level as recommended by Cancer Council) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen by:
  - providing sunscreen in the classroom, and
  - ensuring students apply sunscreen 20 minutes prior to, and during, extended outdoor activities.
- Review the Sun Protection policy annually, with reference to the Cancer Council for updated recommendations.

## Our Expectations

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*Parents/carers will:*

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

Caps are not suitable as they do not provide adequate sun protection.

- Ensure that their 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 provide feedback as necessary.

*Students will:*

- Be aware of the school's Sun Protection policy and procedures.
- Take responsibility for their health by following the school's Sun Protection policy and procedures.
- Comply with sun protection guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing.
- Apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before, and during, extended outdoor activities as necessary.
- 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 procedures for each class.
- Conduct daily UV forecast checks from June to August and communicate results to staff and students, if applicable for their class group.
- Participate in and deliver Sun Protection education programs as required.

**Evaluation**

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School staff will review the effectiveness of this policy each year.

They will:

1. Review the sun protective 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.

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