

**Woodbury Boston Primary School  
Policy and Procedures**

**SUN PROTECTION**

**Last reviewed: August 2017**  
**Endorsed by GB: September 2017**  
**Next review due: August 2018**

## **Sun Protection Policy**

### **Rationale**

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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.

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**

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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+ (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 as necessary.
- 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 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, 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 policy.
- Participate in Sun Protection education programs.

## 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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