

Woodbury Boston Primary School
Policy and Procedures

Sun Protection Policy

Introduction: This policy details how the school endeavours 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 every two years, 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 2018 (or most current version); Cancer Council Sun Protection Guidelines

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

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

Woodbury Boston Primary School will ensure that school activities and excursions are scheduled as much as possible to limit the exposure of students and staff to UV radiation from the sun, and that when exposure is unavoidable, protective measures will be implemented. 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 the related procedures will be applied to all school activities, including excursions and camps. The policy was developed in consultation with the whole school community.

Last reviewed: September 2019
Endorsed by GB: October 2019
Next review due: August 2020

Sun Protection Procedure

Our Commitment

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 provision of 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.
- Direct children without a sun protective hat to stay 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.
- 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 as necessary.
- Review the Sun Protection policy annually, with reference to the Cancer Council for updated recommendations.

Our Expectations

Parents/carers will:

- Provide a sun protective hat for their 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)

Caps are not suitable and 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 help design and regularly update the procedures.

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 policy and procedures.
- Participate in and deliver Sun Protection education programs as required.

Evaluation

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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