

Wongan Hills District High School

Sun Protection Policy

Revised Dec 2023





Wongan Hills District High School



SunSmart Sun Protection Policy

Noted by School Council: December 2023

Background

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV) from the sun. UV damage begins to accumulate during childhood and adolescence and is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. As students and staff are at school during times of peak UV radiation, schools play a major role in providing an environment that minimises exposure and encourages long-term sun protective behaviours.

Aim

Our Sun Protection Policy has been developed to ensure that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending [Wongan Hills District High School](#) are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

Implementation

This policy is to be implemented when the forecast average monthly UV Index in our area is 3 or above, UV levels reach 3 or above during all school terms. The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. Provisions will be made for students who do not have adequate sun protective clothing or hats and these students will not be excluded from play or physical activity, though activities may be restricted to structural shaded areas.

Procedures

Scheduling outdoor activities

- We require students to wear broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style hat in both primary and secondary, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form. We will encourage staff and Parent helpers on these camps, sports and excursions to also wear hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen.
- Students may remove their hats when playing sport that may impede on their vision and safety. This will be at the discretion of the supervising teacher.

Shade

- We ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, particularly in areas in high use areas, for example, popular play areas, where children eat lunch and outdoor lesson areas.
- We encourage staff and students to use shaded areas when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or sun protective clothing are asked to play in structural shade areas.
- We ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.



Wongan Hills District High School

Hats

- We require students in both primary and secondary to wear a broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style hat that protects the face, neck, ears and crown of the head whenever they are outside.
- Students without hats will remain protected from the sun and encouraged to play in structural shaded areas, for example on verandas or in the undercover area.
- We encourage staff, parents and visitors to wear broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities and will inform them of our active Sun Protection policy.

Clothing

- Cool, loose-fitting sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. This includes shirts with collars.
- Staff and students are encouraged to wear a rash vest or similar top (t-shirt ok) for swimming/water activities. Whilst competing in races students may remove rash vest if they think it disadvantages swimming technique.

Sunscreen

- Sunscreen is available and accessible to staff and students in classrooms and at the school office.
- Sunscreen is listed as an optional item for students to keep in their school bags for use during the day.
- All students and staff will be encouraged and reminded to apply SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors e.g. prior to school, before lunch, PE lessons, sports, excursions etc.
- Sunscreen sensitivity/allergies will be requested to be reported in the Children's Health Questionnaire at the start of the year for all students. Children with sensitivity/allergies are encouraged to carry their own sunscreen.

Role modelling and occupational health and safety

- To support health and safety legislation, staff are expected to wear sun protective hats when supervising students.
- Staff and students act as positive role models and demonstrate Sun Smart behaviour when attending school by:
 - wearing sun protective clothing
 - applying SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen
 - wearing a sun protective hat (broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style)
 - using and promoting shade
 - wearing sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067.

Education

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum.

Informing the school community

- Sun protection is communicated to staff, families and visitors via newsletters, the policy on our website and staff meetings.

Policy monitoring and review

- The sun protection policy will be made available to staff and parents on our website. Parents are informed of this sun protection policy when they enrol their child/children. All new employees are briefed on the sun protection policy.
- The policy is monitored regularly and reviewed every three years.

Date for review: 2026

