





# Sun Protection Policy

	Ratified by Council	Reviewed by Principal
Date	25 May 2021	25 May 2021
Name	Justin Coombs	Jenny Dougan
Signature		

*West Coast Steiner School is committed to being a Child Safe Organisation, taking a preventative and participatory stance on child protection issues and promoting a child safe environment*

PROVENANCE		
<b>Responsibility:</b> School Principal	<b>Review Cycle:</b> 3 years	<b>Date for Next Review:</b> June 2024
<b>Related Policies and Procedures</b>	Code of Conduct for Staff Code of Conduct for Students Visitors and Volunteers Policy Duty of Care Policy Risk Management Policy Student Health Care Policy Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan Incursions, Excursions and Camps Policy	
<b>Relevant Legislation and Authority</b>	Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 WA (OSH Act) Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 WA (OSH Regulations) Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WA)	
<b>Appendices</b>		

VERSION MANAGEMENT		
Date	Changes Made	Author
June 2021	Draft 2019 Sun Protection Policy reviewed, rewritten and reformatted	Lee Lane
November 2022	Occupational Health and Safety references updated as Work Health and Safety following adoption of Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WA)	Lee Lane

# Policy

## Background

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three people developing skin cancer at some time in their lives. Overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun has been identified as the cause of approximately 99% of non-melanoma skin cancers, and 95% of melanomas in Australia. Research has established that childhood and adolescence are both critical periods during which sun exposure could contribute to skin cancer later in life. It is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practising sun protective behaviours in childhood and adolescence.

West Coast Steiner School acknowledges the important role it has in providing an environment that minimises exposure and encouraging long-term sun protective behaviours, given that students and staff are at school during times of peak UV radiation. The School encourages and supports its students to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection and is mindful of meeting its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors. The sun protection practices outlined herein have been adopted from The Cancer Council of WA SunSmart recommendations.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy and associated procedures is to ensure that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending West Coast Steiner School are protected as much as possible from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

## Application

This policy applies to and is binding upon all students, parents, staff and visitors to West Coast Steiner School. For the purpose of this policy, “parent” includes step-parents, foster parents, legal guardians, carers and grandparents.

## Policy Review and Dissemination

This policy and related procedures will be made available to the public and staff members on the School website and is available to staff in the Policies and Procedures folder in Reception.

The School may, at any time, make amendments to this policy to ensure continuous improvement. The policy will be reviewed at least once every three years by the School Principal. Cancer Council of Western Australia is contacted as part of the review to ensure that up-to-date information is maintained.

# Implementation

The following procedures are to be implemented throughout the year as necessary, with particular emphasis in Terms 1, 2 and 4, when UV readings tend to be the highest, and will be applied to all outdoor school activities, including day festivals, excursions and camps, or other events where outdoor attendance is required.

## Environment

### Seek shade

- The School makes sure there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas e.g. where students have lunch, assemblies and play.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade on the verandah so they are protected from the sun.
- Signs are placed around the school to remind students 'No Hat, Play in the Shade of the Verandah'
- In consultation with the School Council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

## Behaviours

### Slip on sun protective clothing

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school dress code. It includes shirts with collars and elbow-length sleeves, longer dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

### Slap on a sun protective hat

- All students and staff wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brim or bucket hat), whenever they are outside. Caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

### Slop on sunscreen

- Students can provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen from home or use SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen provided by the School for staff and students' use.
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices).

## Learning

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- New staff are briefed on the Sun Protection Policy as part of their induction process.

- Parents are informed of the Sun Protection Policy when they enrol their child and are encouraged to provide appropriate hat/clothing for their child.

### **Work Health and Safety (WHS)**

- As part of WHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:
  - wear a sun protective hat and covering clothing
  - apply sunscreen
  - seek shade whenever possible.
- Physical education teachers are required to take appropriate sun protection measures as they are particularly at risk from UV radiation.

### **For Further Information**

Cancer Council Western Australia

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[www.cancerwa.asn.au](http://www.cancerwa.asn.au)