

Success Primary School

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 *Success Primary 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 (available from www.bom.gov.au). Throughout Western Australia, 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 shaded areas.

Procedures

Scheduling outdoor activities

- Where possible, we schedule outdoor activities such as assemblies and outdoor lessons to occur when the UV Index is below 3. When this is not possible activities are scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible to avoid peak UV times.
- When outdoor activities are scheduled at times when the UV Index is 3 or higher, maximum use is made of shade and sunscreen, hats and long clothing suggested in advance to protect students and staff.
- We require students to wear broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style hats for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.
- Staff and parent helpers are encouraged to wear broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style hat, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions.
- Students are encouraged to wear sunscreen and protective clothing for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.

Shade

- We ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, particularly in high use areas, for example, popular play areas, where children eat lunch, canteen, 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 the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- We ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings, grounds and playground equipment.

Hats

- We require students and encourage staff 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 shaded areas.

- We encourage parents and visitors to wear broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaires style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

Clothing

- Staff are encouraged and students are required to wear a rash vest or similar top for swimming/water activities (may not be appropriate for short periods of competitive swimming).

Sunscreen

- All students will apply and staff are encouraged to apply SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen prior to school and during, excursions and sporting activities etc.
- Sunscreen will be available at all excursions and outdoor school events for students and staff.
- Staff will instruct students to reapply sunscreen every two hours during excursions and sporting activities.
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun.

Sunglasses (optional)

- Where practical, students are encouraged to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2,3 or 4).

Role modelling and occupational health and safety

- To support health and safety legislation, staff are required to wear sun protective hats when supervising students.
- Staff, students and visitors will act as positive role models and demonstrate SunSmart 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 for all year levels.

Informing the school community

- Sun protection is communicated to staff, families and visitors via newsletters, social media, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to role model sun protection measures when attending outdoor activities.

Policy monitoring and review

- The sun protection policy will be made available to staff and parents. 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: January 2026

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Support Sun Care Safety

<https://ikon.education.wa.edu.au/-/support-sun-care-safety/>

- Develop sun protection practices
- Encourage sun protection
- Provide shaded areas

Student Health Care in Public Schools policy and procedures (2015) Version 3.6

<https://ikon.education.wa.edu.au/-/access-the-student-health-care-in-public-schools-policy-and-procedures/>

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/web/policies/-/student-health-care-in-public-schools-policy>