MOERLINA SCHOOL

Policy and Procedure

SunSmart Sun Protection

Endorsed by Cancer Council WA : February 2024

Date of Creation	February 2021
Scheduled Date for Review	February 2027

Adapted for Moerlina School
The Cancer Council of WA Sun Protection Policy for schools has been adapted to guide decisions made in the duty of care of our students.

All staff employed at Moerlina School are responsible for the care, safety and protection of our students. This responsibility requires the school and staff to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and welfare of the students from both known and reasonably foreseeable risks of harm and/or injury. Moerlina School is committed to providing and promoting an environment that is safe and healthy and in which hazards are identified to enable prevention, minimisation and control. The school's approach is to be proactive in assessing and managing risk, not eliminating it. For staff, the duty of care in supporting and extending children's capabilities and their learning about safe risk taking has to be balanced with protecting them from harm by using a common sense and professionally informed approach. (Excerpt from the Moerlina School Duty of Care Policy and Procedures)

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 support understanding of harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun and sun-safe environments and to promote sun protection behaviours to students, staff and families.

Implementation
This policy is to be implemented when the forecast average monthly UV Index in our area is 3 or above. 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 sport, outdoor learning programs, 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
<u>Scheduling outdoor activities</u>

- Where possible, we schedule outdoor activities to occur when the UV Index is below 3 or as far from 12 noon as possible to avoid peak UV times. However, this is often not possible in our school context. For example: we have a number of specialist teachers (including our Phys Ed teacher) who only work part time; we have scheduled shared core learning blocks across mornings that cannot be changed; we run many excursions and incursions which are planned in advance; and, we run Beach School and Bush School as part of our outdoor learning programs in the terms most suitable to these activities.
- When outdoor activities are scheduled at times when the UV Index is 3 or higher, maximum use is made of shade, sunscreen and hats and long clothing is promoted to protect students and staff. We recognise that some of our learning environments lend themselves more readily to sun protection than others. For example, at Beach School, students often spend much of the school day on the beach, with brief periods in the water. To address this we implement a number of practices based on weather conditions: a sunshade shelter is made available on the beach; students wear hats at all times apart from their swimming lesson (20 – 25minutes) and occasional shallow water games; notes to parents suggest long sleeved rashies; scheduled activities are arranged in response to weather conditions and water conditions; and, students are regularly reminded to reapply sunscreen.

- We require students to wear broad-brimmed hats and sunscreen, and promote sun protective clothing for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form. Appropriate hats are expected without exception, and parents are responsible for providing the level of sun protective clothing for their child and have the opportunity to provide their preferred sunscreen.

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 and outdoor lesson areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- We ensure that we have access to shaded areas on excursions and outdoor events as required.
- We encourage staff and students to use shaded areas when outside.
- Students who do not have hats or sun protective clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Hats

- We require students and 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, unless the UV index is below 3, or the children have been directed otherwise.
- The current day forecast maximum UV rating is made available to the school community on the back verandah to support decision-making regarding hats. Where the forecast maximum UV is 3 or above hats will be worn, regardless of the time of day.
- Students without hats will remain protected from the sun and encouraged to play in shaded areas.

Clothing

- Families are able to choose sun appropriate clothing for students to wear at school and on excursions, in addition to any requirements from the school.
- Staff 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

- Sunscreen is available and accessible to staff and students in classrooms and the staff room. Families may also provide their own sunscreen.
- All students will apply SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen before sports, excursions etc. unless the school has received notification of alternative arrangements from parents.
- Staff will ensure that students reapply sunscreen every two hours or more frequently if it is washed or wiped off (eg. Beach School and water-based excursions/play), or there is prolonged time outdoors.
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun, where possible.
- The expiry date of sunscreen will be monitored as part of the medical kit checks each term.

Role modelling and occupational health and safety

- Staff and students will act as positive role models and demonstrate SunSmart behaviour when attending school by:
    - wearing sun protective clothing appropriate to activities
    - applying sunscreen
    - wearing a sun protective hat
    - using and promoting shade
- To support health and safety legislation, staff are required to wear sun protective hats when supervising students.

Education

- Knowledge and understanding around sun protection is included in learning programs for all year levels.

Informing the school community

- Sun protection is communicated to students, staff and families via school community communications, class communications, school meetings, excursion notes and staff meetings.
- The sun protection policy will be made available to staff and parents and is available on the school's website. Parents are informed of this sun protection policy when their child is enrolled. All new employees are briefed on the sun protection policy.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to role model sun protection measures when attending outdoor activities.

Policy monitoring and review

- This policy is monitored regularly and reviewed every three years, by the School and Cancer Council WA.

Published: February 2021
Endorsed by Cancer Council WA: February 2024
Date for next review: February 2027

Cancer Council Western Australia P: (08) 9388 4351
E: sunsmart@cancerwa.asn.au
W: www.generationsunsmart.com.au