



# Sun Protection Policy

## **Rationale:**

The sun's UV rays can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70.

## **Aims:**

1. Protect all students and staff from over-exposure to UV radiation
2. Provide outdoor shade for students and staff
3. Encourage and support students to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection
4. Enable WNPS to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

## **Implementation:**

1. All WNPS staff members will be responsible for implementing this policy.
2. All students to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears when outside. Students will be required to wear Cancer Council approved close –weave broad brimmed hats at least 8cm rigid brim or legionnaire hats with WNPS logo.
3. Wearing WNPS sun protection hats is compulsory Terms One and Four each year and at other times of the year whenever UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher including all off-site activities such as camps, excursions and sports days.
4. To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the SunSmart app or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au)
5. Students who do not have appropriate sun protective hats or sun protective outdoor clothing are restricted to a designated shaded area.
6. Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirts with collars and sleeves, longer dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.
7. Students to provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
8. Strategies to be in place to remind students to apply their own sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sun screen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
9. The School Council to make sure there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas e.g. where students have lunch, canteen, assemblies, sports and outdoor lessons.
10. The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities.
11. In consultation with the School Council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
12. A shade assessment is conducted annually to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
13. Instruction on the importance of sun protection is included in the curriculum for all year levels.
14. Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
15. Sun protection behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

16. As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors are encouraged to wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses; apply sunscreen; and seek shade whenever possible

**Resources:**

- DET School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) [Sun & UV protection](#) (2019)
- Healthy Schools Achievement Program
- [SunSmart.com.au](#)
- Victorian School Building Authority [Building Quality Standards Handbook](#) (BQSH): Section 5.1.4 Shade Areas (2018)
- DET [Outdoor activities](#) (2018)
- Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) [Your Child's Health Wellbeing and Safety](#) (Primary)
- Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) [Managing a school – Health & Safety Compliance Framework: OHS >Sun Protection](#)
- [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework](#) (VEYLDF) (May 2016)
- Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) [The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#) - Principle 3.2
- [Australian Professional Standards for Teachers](#) (APST) – Standard 4.4 and 7.2
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into [Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools –Final Report](#) (2007)
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)
- AS 4174:2018 Knitted and woven shade fabrics
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 2604:2012 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: [4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product](#)  
AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.6.2.1: General considerations, 6.3.9: Shade and sun protection

**Review:**

- The School Council and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the Sun Protection policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years) by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at [sunsmart.com.au](#).

This policy was ratified by School Council in June 2020