

## Anne Hamersley 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 Anne Hamersley Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. Additionally, the AHPS Sun Protection Policy is in place:

- To encourage all students to have some form of protection from the sun when involved in outdoor activities
- For students to develop sensible habits to protect themselves from harmful effects of the sun
- To educate students to be aware of the dangers of exposure to the sun; and
- To encourage students to wear the school hat as an integral part of the school uniform

### **Implementation**

Anne Hamersley Primary School follows a “No Hat - Shade Play” SunSmart Sun Protection policy. 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](http://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, incursions, camps and outdoor whole school events. 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.

### **Extreme Weather Protection**

All children at Anne Hamersley Primary School are encouraged to play each day during the recess and lunch time periods available to them. This is to be encouraged unless severe weather conditions (extreme heat) are present, which will result in students remaining indoors in classrooms.

### **Procedures**

#### Scheduling outdoor activities

- Where possible, we schedule outdoor activities such as whole school events, outdoor lessons and physical education to occur when the UV Index is below 3.
- When outdoor activities are scheduled at times when the UV Index is 3 or higher, maximum use is made of shade, sunscreen, hats and long clothing to protect students and staff.
- We require students, staff and parent helpers to wear broad-brimmed style hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sporting events 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 staff to wear a broad-brimmed 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 style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

### Clothing

- Cool, loose-fitting sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform / dress code and sports uniform. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, and longer dresses and shorts.
- Staff and students are required to wear a rash vest or similar top for swimming/water activities at excursions.
- During free dress days, students are/to be encouraged by staff and parents to dress in sun protective clothing.

### Sunscreen

- Students are asked to attend school with sunscreen already applied.
- Sunscreen is available and accessible to staff and students in classrooms.
- All students and staff are encouraged to apply SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors e.g. prior to school, before break times, PE lessons, sporting events, excursions etc.
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun.
- The occupational safety and health representative will monitor the expiry date of sunscreen and discard when out of date.

### Sunglasses (optional)

- Where practical, students can wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067.

### 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 style)
  - Using and promoting shade
  - Wearing sunglasses (if possible)

### Education

- Programs on sun protection are included in the Health curriculum for Years 2 and 5.

### Informing the school community

- Sun protection is communicated to staff, families and visitors via Landing Posts, social media, assemblies, daily messages, and whole school activities.

- 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.
- This policy is monitored regularly and reviewed every three years.

Date for review: July 2026

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Last updated: Jan 2022



### 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>