



SUN PROTECTION POLICY

RATIONALE

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. As students are at school during times when UV radiation levels are highest, schools play a major role in creating a supportive environment that minimises exposure and encourages sun protective behaviours.

POLICY

Our Sun Protection policy has been adopted to ensure that all students, staff and visitors attending St James' Anglican School are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. This policy is to be implemented during Terms 1 and 4. The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions and camps.

PROCEDURE

St James' Anglican School will:

- Inform parents of this sun protection policy when they enrol their child/children.
- Brief all staff on the sun protection policy.
- Promote sun protection via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.
- Require students to wear bucket or legionnaire hats when outside.
- Direct students without a bucket hat to stay in an area that is protected from the sun.
- Require staff to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats for all outdoor activities, including yard duty.
- Encourage parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.



- Require students to wear bucket hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.
- Require staff and students to wear a swim (*rash*) top for swimming (this may not be appropriate during competitive swimming).
- Review the school dress code to include sun protective items such as shirts with collars and longer sleeves, and swim tops for swimming.
- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, by planting trees and building shade structures. Particularly in areas where students congregate, for example, lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Timetable as many outdoor activities as possible - including assemblies, sport and physical education – when the UV Index is below 3. When this is not possible activities should be scheduled as far from 12 noon as possible.
- Encourage the use of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen by:
 - listing sunscreen as an item that students are required to buy for the school year.
 - providing sunscreen in the classroom.
 - allowing students time to apply sunscreen 20 minutes prior to outdoor activities e.g. prior to school, before lunch, PE lessons, sports, excursions etc.
- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.
- Review the sun protection policy annually.

Parents/carers will:

- Provide a school bucket hat for their child/children and ensure that they wear it to and from school in Term 1 and 4.
- In Terms 2 and 3 hats are required at recess and lunchtime.
- Ensure that their child/children apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school.
- Ensure that their child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation. Cancer Council WA recommends the following:
 - collars and sleeves
 - closely woven fabric
 - natural fibre
 - rash vest or shirts for swimming.
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour.
- Support the school's Sun Protection policy and help design and regularly update the policy.



Students will:

- Be aware of the school's Sun Protection policy.
- Take responsibility for their health by being SunSmart.
- Comply with Sun Protection rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing.
- Apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Use shaded or covered areas outdoors.
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.
- Help design and regularly update the Sun Protection policy.
- Participate in Sun Protection education programs.