



<i>Reviewer</i>	<i>Last Approval Date</i>	<i>Next Review Date</i>
LF/HM	Sept 2021	Sept 2024

## **Sun Protection Policy**

### **Rationale**

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

Our sun protection policy has been adopted to ensure that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending Margaret River Montessori School are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. This policy is to be implemented throughout the year, but with particular emphasis from the beginning of September through to the end of May. The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. The policy has been developed in consultation with the whole school community.

### **Our Commitment**

Margaret River Montessori School will ensure it remains a registered SunSmart school and will:

Inform parents of this sun protection policy when they enrol their child/children. Brief all new staff on the sun protection policy.

Promote sun protection via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, also at parent and staff meetings.

Require students to wear broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hats when outside all throughout the year.

Enforce the no hat no play policy.

Direct students without a broad brimmed bucket, or legionnaire 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 broad brimmed or bucket hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sport activities and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.

Require staff and students to wear a swim (rash) top for outdoor swimming (this may not be appropriate during competitive swimming).

Review the school dress code (for staff, students and visitors) 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, 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:

- 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, sport, excursions etc.

Class teachers and OHS staff will monitor and ensure out of date sunscreen is discarded and replaced accordingly.

Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs into the appropriate key learning areas of the school curriculum.

Review the sun protection policy annually.

## **Our Expectations**

Parents/carers will:

- Ensure your child/children has a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat.
- Cancer Council WA recommends the following hats: broad brimmed (7.5 cm brim) legionnaire style bucket/surfie style (6 cm brim)
- Ensure that your child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation. Students must wear sleeves (long or short, but no singlet tops)
- Cancer Council WA recommends the following: collars and sleeves, closely woven fabric, natural fibre, swim (rash) tops for swimming.
- Ensure that your child/children has/have access to SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen before leaving for school.
- 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 SunSmart 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.
- Be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over exposure to the sun.
- Help design and regularly update the SunSmart policy.
- Participate in SunSmart education programs.

### **Evaluation**

The School will: review the effectiveness of this policy each year and make any necessary changes.

They will:

1. Review the Sun Smart behaviour of students, staff, parents, and visitors and make recommendations for improvement.
2. Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision.
3. Update and promote curriculum material relevant to SunSmart activities.

### **References**

**Cancer Council Position Statement** – [https://wiki.cancer.org.au/policy/Position\\_statement\\_-\\_Risks\\_and\\_benefits\\_of\\_sun\\_exposure#\\_ga=2.21905467.1424277516.1523345261-495253811.1523345261](https://wiki.cancer.org.au/policy/Position_statement_-_Risks_and_benefits_of_sun_exposure#_ga=2.21905467.1424277516.1523345261-495253811.1523345261)

The key statement in this position statement says “extended and deliberate sun exposure without any form of sun protection when the UV Index is 3 or above is not recommended, even for those diagnosed with vitamin D deficiency.

In Margaret River the UV Index is above 3 all year round with the exception of June and July. To ensure consistency and reduce confusion, MRMS has decided to promote hat wearing all year round.