



SunSmart & Extreme Weather Policy



Sun Protection Policy

Background

The policy has been developed using the Cancer Council of WA's SunSmart Policy template.

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

Beckenham Primary School's SunSmart Policy is intended to provide students, staff, parents and visitors with the opportunity to protect themselves in an environment that minimises UV exposure and encourages sun safe protective behaviours.

Implementation

This policy is to be implemented when the forecast daily UV Index in our area is 3 or above (available from 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 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

Scheduling outdoor activities

- Where possible, we schedule outdoor activities such as outdoor lessons, fitness and physical education to occur when the UV Index is below 3. When this is not possible activities are scheduled as far from 12pm as possible to avoid peak UV times.
- 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 (provided by parents) to protect students and staff.
- We require students, staff and parent helpers to wear broad-brimmed or legionnaires style hat, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports 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 areas in high use areas, for example undercover playground, undercover area, and verandas outside classrooms.
- We encourage staff and students to use shaded areas when outside.

- Students who do not have appropriate hats or sun protective clothing are required to play under a permanent shade structure (no hat, play in the shade).
- 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 to wear a broad-brimmed (minimum 6 cm brim) or legionnaires 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 required to play under permanent shade structures.
- We encourage parents and visitors to wear broad-brimmed or legionnaires 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, broadbrimmed hats and pants.

Sunscreen

- Sunscreen is available and accessible to staff and students in classrooms. Parents are encouraged to provide sunscreen for their child.
- When conducting a class activity outdoors, staff should encourage all students to apply sunscreen prior to moving outdoors.
- Physical Education teacher to carry sunscreen with them for all lessons.
- Sunscreen to be accessible by all students during outdoor events such as athletics carnivals.
- When on excursions, where students will be outdoors for longer than an hour, staff will remind students to apply sunscreen every two hours or more frequently if it is washed or wiped off.
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun.
- Classroom teachers will monitor the expiry date of sunscreen and discard when out of date. Teachers will advise the front office if supply is running low or close to expiry.

Role modelling and occupational health and safety

- To support health and safety legislation, staff are encouraged to wear sun protective hats when supervising students.
- Staff will encourage students to take responsibility for their own sun protection.
- 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 or legionnaires style)
- Using and promoting shade
- Wearing sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067.

Education

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum per WA Curriculum Health and Physical Education scope and sequence (Year 2 -6) and as part of the teaching and learning program for Pre-Primary to Year 1 students.

Informing the school community

- Sun protection is communicated to staff, families and visitors via newsletters, social media, daily messages, relevant whole school activities, and staff meetings.
- 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 via the Parent Handbook when they enrol their child/children. All new employees are briefed on the sun protection policy.
- The policy is monitored regularly and reviewed every three years.

Heat Management Policy

Background

The policy has been developed using guidelines provided by the Department of Education's Student Health in Public Schools Policy & Procedures, including Appendix C – Sun Protection and Heat Management.

Refer to Beckenham PS Extreme Heat and Heatwave Action Plan.

Aim

To reduce the risk of heat related illness amongst staff, students and visitors.

Implementation

This policy is to be implemented if the temperature is expected to be above 38 degrees Celsius.

Procedures

Stay Hydrated

Students are to be encouraged to consume adequate water throughout the day, including at recess, lunch and during outdoor activities such as Physical Education lessons.

Check the Temperature

During summer, admin to check the forecast temperature prior to the daily notices being sent out (available from www.bom.gov.au). Admin to inform staff via daily notices if the temperature is forecast to exceed 38 degrees Celsius. If the temperature is forecast to reach 38 degree or higher before 11.30am the heat management plan will be implemented for both break times. If the temperature is forecast to reach 38 degrees Celsius after 1.00pm the heat management plan will only be implemented for second break.

Provide Alternative Activities

Main Primary School Area:

- Students to eat food either under a permanent shade structure or in the classroom under supervision as per the Lunch Eating Time duty roster.
- Students must play under a permanent shade structure in open duty areas.
- Duty area 3 – the oval to be closed.
- Duty area 5 – nature playground/around library to be closed.
- Area 3 duty teacher to open library for indoor activities (or the duty teacher's classroom if they prefer – teacher to inform admin by replying to the daily notices).
- Area 5 duty teacher to supervise the undercover area.
- Area 2 duty teacher to supervise the verandas around rooms 1 to 13.

- Admin to assist with supervision if areas have a large influx of students.

Early Childhood Unit:

- All student in ECU to eat lunch under their respective classroom veranda. Teachers can choose if they wish to supervise eating time inside the classroom.
- Activities to be placed under the verandas during play times.
- Duty teachers to discuss opening one classroom or all students playing on verandas.

Physical Education:

- Modify or postpone planned vigorous activity.
- Any outdoor activity must be performed in the shade. Shade can be natural or manmade.
- Physical education teacher is responsible for checking the temperature prior to the commencement of class.

Kitchen Garden:

- Gardening to be postponed once the temperature reaches 38 degrees, students to remain in the kitchen. Kitchen garden teacher is responsible for checking the temperature prior to the commencement of class.

Other:

- Postpone planned outdoor lessons and remain indoors.
- Special events such as assembly or community picnics may be relocated, postponed following consultation with staff and/or regional office. If the event continues, students to bring their water bottles and undercover fans turned on (if relocated to undercover area).

Identify Heat-Related Illness

Some common heat-related symptoms include:

- Heat rash
- Heat cramps, including muscle pains or spasms
- Dizziness and fainting.

Heat related illnesses include:

- Heat exhaustion. Warning signs may include paleness and sweating, rapid heart rate, muscle cramps, headache, nausea and vomiting, dizziness or fainting.
- Heat stroke. A person with heat stroke may stagger, appear confused, have a fit, collapse and become unconscious. **This is a medical emergency and requires urgent attention.**

Treatment for Heat Related Illnesses

- Students, staff or visitors showing symptoms of heat related illnesses are to be brought to the front office.
- Protocols to treat heat related illness must be followed and are in the medical room in the front office.

Wet and Extreme Weather Procedure

In the event of wet weather at recess, lunch or during outdoor lessons such as Physical Education, staff are to follow the Beckenham PS wet weather procedures.

Extreme weather typically involves heavy rain, thunderstorms, lightning, and/or strong winds, potentially including hail. Extreme weather may be determined through visual observation, receiving a notification via the Emergency WA app or through www.bom.gov.au.

Main Primary School Area:

- Students must play undercover.
- Area 1 Duty Teacher/s 1: Respective class veranda
- Area 2 Duty Teacher: Rooms 1 to 8 veranda and undercover area.
- Area 3 Duty Teacher: Library
- Area 3: Oval to be closed at break times. Library to be opened. Area 3 duty teacher to supervise library.
- Area 4: Duty Teacher: Rooms 8 to 13 veranda and undercover area
- Area 5 Duty Teacher: Library veranda and Rooms 14 – Room 17 verandas
- When extreme weather is called, teacher will be required to keep their class inside for break time. Admin will monitor to relieve staff for breaks.

Early Childhood Unit:

- All student in ECU to eat lunch under their respective classroom veranda.
- Activities to be placed under the verandas during play times.
- Duty teachers to discuss opening one classroom or all students playing on verandas.
- When extreme weather is called, teacher will be required to keep their class inside for break time. Admin will monitor to relieve staff for breaks.

Physical Education:

- Students to undertake physical education related activities undercover or participate in alternative activities in classroom with the PE teacher. PE teacher to consult with classroom teacher prior to the beginning of lesson if classroom will be required.

Policy & Procedures Implemented	March 2025
Next Review	February 2028