



SILVER TREE STEINER SCHOOL

Sun Protection Policy

2024

This policy applies to staff and students.

AUTHORISED BY:	Head of School
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Contents

- Policy 3
- Objectives 3
- Implementation 3
- Work Health and Safety..... 4
- Sun Protection 4
- Monitoring..... 5
- Evaluation 5
- Related Policies..... 5
- Where To Go for Further Information..... 5

Policy

Australia has the highest skin cancer rates globally, primarily due to cumulative sun exposure, with much damage occurring in childhood and adolescence. Severe sunburn is linked to skin cancer and other skin damage, such as premature aging. Most skin damage is preventable.

This policy aims to protect all students and staff at Silver Tree Steiner School from over exposure to harmful UV radiation. It outlines our sun protection practices for all school activities, including sports, excursions, and camps.

We encourage the entire school community to adopt effective skin protection measures year-round, emphasising the need for vigilance in both summer and cooler months.

The aim of this policy is to promote among students, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Lifestyle practices which help reduce the incidence of skin cancer.
- Personal responsibility for decision-making about skin protection.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in schools to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

Objectives

The goals of the Sun Protection Policy are to:

- Increase student and community awareness of skin cancer.
- Assist students to develop strategies that encourage responsible decision making about skin protection.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students and staff.
- Encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hats and sunscreen during high risk times such as lunch times, sports, excursions and camps.
- Ensure that parents are informed of the school's Sun Protection policy.

Implementation

Curriculum

- Sun protection and skin cancer awareness are incorporated into the appropriate Learning Areas of the school curriculum.

Clothing

- Students are actively encouraged to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats whenever they are outside in Terms 1 and 4, particularly for organised outdoor activities such as games lessons and outdoor camps and excursions.
- Staff are required to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats for all outdoor activities, including yard duty in Terms 1 and 4.
- Parents are encouraged to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities in Terms 1 and 4.

Sunscreen use

Students and staff are actively encouraged to apply a minimum SPF 30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant

sunscreen i.e. before outdoor activity. A preservative-free, low-chemical sunscreen is made available to staff and students by the school, located at Reception and with the Games teacher.

The type of sunscreen made available to staff and students will be determined by the school and may change. At the time of writing this policy, Silver Tree Steiner School provides Signature Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50+ by 'we are feel good Inc.'

Sport and Physical Education

- Broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat wearing is compulsory for sport and physical education (Games) in Terms 1 and 4, and during Terms 2 and 3 where the UV index is 3 or above.
- The Games teacher may choose to be indoors on days when the UV index is high.

Camps and Excursions

- Broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen are required for all camps and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.

Shade

- The school is working towards increasing and/or maintaining shade in its grounds, particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch and/or outdoor lesson areas.
- Temporary shade structures will be considered as a short-term measure and for events such as Open Day.
- Students and staff are actively encouraged to use shade.

Assemblies

- Outdoor assemblies are either scheduled when the UV Index is below 3 or held in an area where all students can be in the shade.

Note: UV alert times are available from the Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au/uv

Work Health and Safety

Consideration is given to sun protection for all teachers/staff involved in outdoor activities, including yard duty.

Games teachers and Grounds staff are required to take appropriate sun protection measures as they are particularly at risk from UV radiation.

Sun Protection

Students will be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.

Sun protection will be promoted throughout the year via the school newsletter, assemblies, daily messages, parent and staff meetings and whole school activities.

During Terms 1 and 4, children will be directed to play in the shade of the verandahs if they do not have a hat.

"No hat – Play in the shade of the verandahs"

Monitoring

This policy will be monitored by the Head of School who will ensure:

- All new staff are briefed on the Sun Protection Policy as part of their induction.
- The Sun Protection Policy is included as an agenda item for the first Monday News of Term 1 and Term 4.
- The Sun Protection Policy is summarised in the *Parent Handbook* and made available on our website.
- Sun protection practices are promoted regularly from the beginning of September through to the end of April.

Evaluation

The Head of School or their delegate will review the effectiveness of this policy and will:

- Review the Sun Smart behaviour of students, staff, parents and visiting guests.
- Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations.
- Check plans for future buildings and grounds with regards to shade provision (in consultation with the Board of Governors).

Related Policies

Other policies that should be read in conjunction with this policy are: Duty of Care Policy

- Camps, Excursions and Incursions Policy
- Work Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Heat Wave Policy

Where To Go for Further Information

Cancer Council Western Australia

www.cancerwa.asn.au

Ph: 9212 4333

Cancer Helpline – 13 11 20