

Wynn Vale School Sun Protection and Weather Policy

Sun Protection Policy

Updated May 2018

Rationale

It is the Policy of Wynn Vale School to ensure that the responsibilities towards the health and safety of the School Community are met by all parties in relation to exposure to ultraviolet radiation at the workplace. Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, creating huge social and economic costs. However, it is estimated that at least 75 per cent of all skin cancers could be prevented by protecting skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence. Schools can help by encouraging all members of the school community to take effective skin-protection measures.

Aims

The aims of the Wynn Vale School Sun Protection Policy is to promote among students, staff, volunteers, parent/carers:

- Positive attitude towards skin protection
- Increase awareness of skin cancer and other skin damage caused by exposure to UV radiation.
- Develop strategies that protect staff, students, volunteers and contractors skin from the sun.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for staff, students and volunteers.
- Encourage all staff, students, volunteers and contractors to protect their skin from UV at all times, particularly at lunchtime, during sport, excursions and camps.
- Ensure that staff, students, parents/carers, volunteers and contractors are informed of the school's UV Policy.

Implementation

The Sun Protection Policy is for implementation throughout the year. However, the conditions outlined are mandatory from **1st August through to 30th April**. The School strongly recommends that, when outdoors (particularly at recess and lunch times) or participating in outdoor activities:

- All staff and students wear hats. For students, this must be the school hat.
- For staff hats appropriate to the work situation should be worn. In particular hats used by PE and Maintenance staff should be of close weave material and have a brim of at least 8 – 10 cm
- Students will wear uniforms appropriate to the season and or activities being undertaken.
- Staff will wear clothing appropriate to the season and or activities being undertaken.

- Students have the option of wearing sunglasses for outdoor school activities and they are required to meet all standards as specified by Australian Standard AS1067
- Sunscreen is available to all staff, students and volunteers. Dispensers of sunscreen will be in each classroom; the sunscreen will be Broad Spectrum and water resistant. Uses by dates are regularly checked and record of issue will be kept.
- Shade is required for outdoor activities in particular between the hours of 11am and 3pm or where outdoor activities occur and or where people are likely to be watching an outdoor activity for longer than 10 minutes.
- To ensure that these areas are covered in the appropriate subjects, eg. Student well-being
- Reinforce the Sun Protection Policy in a positive way through posters, the newsletter and planning of outdoor activities.

Procedures

- A “No Hat, No Play” policy is applied during PE lessons, Outdoor recreational activities and sports practices, and Recess and Lunch times.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own supplies of SPF30+ sunscreen to school.
- Students who do not have hats will be required to stay under the courtyard shelter or in shaded areas during recess and lunch breaks.
- Risk assessments will be completed prior to all activities being participated in outdoors. Weather restriction guidelines will be adhered to.

Hot Weather Policy

Aims

There is a need for common practices that support OHS&W guidelines on days that are hot and of extreme heat. Children and staff have the right to be as comfortable as possible in the school on these days.

On days of extreme heat or prolonged hot weather, a number of activities and sports are affected that need early decisions and consequent changes to supervision.

Despite being air-conditioned, classrooms can become uncomfortable in cases of prolonged spells of hot weather.

Implementation :

- Encourage students to drink more throughout the day and during recess and lunch breaks.
- If the temperature is over 35 degrees C, the Leadership Team will make a decision about students going outside at recess and lunch time.
- This may include reversing play times (ie. Having a long break at the usual recess time and shorter break at lunch time when the weather is hotter).
- The Hot/Wet weather roster will ensure required release breaks for teachers.
- The siren will sound three times to signal when students are to stay inside.
- Water bottles are permitted in classrooms at all times, regardless of temperature.

School Sports and Practices

Sports Day

Sports Day will be cancelled if the maximum temperature forecast on the ABC1 7pm News Bulletin the evening before exceeds 32 degrees C.

SAPSASA Weather Policy

SAPSASA Policy guidelines state the following regarding Heat Guidelines, Electrical Storms, Heavy Rail/Hail and Sun Protection.

Heat Guidelines for SAPSASA Championships, Carnivals and Knockout Finals:
When the forecast on the previous evening's ABC TV weather for your region is 35 degrees or higher, schools and/or districts will need to undertake strategies to ensure students may participate in SAPSASA events in a safe manner.

- *Where it is possible and appropriate then the event should be rescheduled.*
- *The event convenor should refer to the Sports Medicine Australia Guidelines to ascertain the appropriateness of conducting the event.*
- *If the event is to proceed then the following modifications should be implemented.*
 - *Change start and/or finish times to cooler part of the day*
 - *Modify rules, including the length of matches*
 - *Provide extra drink breaks and rest periods.*
 - *Ensure there is adequate shade*
 - *Ensure all students and officials are appropriately attired (refer sun protection policy)*

For Knock our minor round games the competing schools need to liaise and consider the heat and travel policies of the schools involved.

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- *SAPSASA should ensure that team uniforms are suitable for the locations to be visited and that hats are included when travelling to high sun risk venues*
- *SAPSASA where possible should schedule matches outside the identified high risk times.*
- *SAPSASA where possible, should ensure that adequate shade areas are provided at competition venues.*
- *SAPSASA should ensure that team officials provide team members with adequate instructions on sun sense and protection measures*
- *SAPSASA should ensure the team officials model behaviour that is appropriate for protection from the sun.*
- *SAPSASA should ensure that team officials encourage personal protection measures for students at all times, including :*
 - *Encouraging the wearing of hats when in the sun*
 - *Encouraging the use of broad spectrum sunscreen*
 - *Encouraging the use of available shade areas whenever possible.*

Electrical Storms

The distance (in kilometres) to a lightning flash may be estimated by dividing the time delay (in seconds) between the flash and the thunder by 3. If you hear thunder, find shelter urgently, especially if the time delay is less than 30 seconds. Try to remain sheltered for at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder.

- *Seek shelter in a solid building but avoid small open structures or fabric tents.*
- *Seek shelter in a 'hard – top' (metal-bodied) vehicle but don't touch any metal sections.*
- *Never shelter under small groups of (or single) trees.*

- *If your hair stands on end or you hear 'buzzing' from nearby rocks, fences, etc., move immediately.*
- *Don't handle umbrellas or golf clubs, etc.*
- *Stay away from metal poles, fences, etc.*
- *Don't ride bicycles or travel in open vehicles.*
- *If swimming, surfing, etc, leave the water immediately.*

Heavy Rain/Hail

In the event of heavy rain or hail, if conditions are deemed unsafe then play should be suspended and resumed if and when conditions improve.

Extreme Weather Guidelines and Procedures

Extreme Heat

In the case of prolonged spells of hot weather, breakdown of school air conditioning or other extreme weather events, the Leadership team will determine if alternative care arrangements need to be made.

This may include, but is not limited to,

- Sending a letter to parents/caregivers stating that children can be collected from the school for early dismissal.
- Programmed lessons will run until the end of the school day if parents/caregivers do not pick children up and teachers will seek the coolest temporary locations.
- Parents need to follow normal early collection processes and check their students out through the front office.