



## Sun Safety Policy

*It is everyone's responsibility.*

### The Facts:

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world with two out of three Queenslanders developing some form of skin cancer in their life time. Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are at their highest during the hours our children are at school. Children and young people's skin is very susceptible to UVR damage and sustaining five or more severe sunburns in this critical period more than doubles melanoma risk.

Reducing sun exposure in childhood is the most effective way of reducing the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. With this in mind, **Western Suburbs State Special School** (WSSSS) realises the importance of protecting our staff and students skin. Our setting provides an appropriate opportunity to influence positive sun safe behaviour and establish the use of daily life long sun protection practices, thus reducing their risk of skin damage as a result of sun exposure.

### What are we doing?

As a school we are providing multiple opportunities for explicit and incidental learning regarding sun safety.

- Playground spaces are designed to include shade spaces.
- SPF 50+ water based sunscreen is provided for all staff and students to use on all uncovered areas of skin, prior to outdoor activity. Staff assist students with correct application and educate students on how to apply sunscreen appropriately.
- The school uniform is designed to maximise sun safety by including a collared polo shirt and sun safe hat (Bucket or broad brimmed).
- Students are required to wear a sun safe hat when outdoors in the sun. If a student doesn't have a hat, they are required to stay in the shade. No Hat, No Play.
- Class staff encourage students to check for hats before leaving the classroom.
- Staff are encouraged to model sun safe behaviour by wearing an appropriate sun safe hat when outdoors and on playground duty.



- Sun safe strategies for play areas will be included in annual Curriculum Activity Risk Assessments (CARAs)

### **Special Events:**

- Swimming- Students are required to wear swim shirts at all outdoor swimming lessons.
- During carnivals, students must wear a sun-safe shirt with the exception of immediately during competitive swimming events.
- The school will supply SPF 50+ water based sunscreen and encourage staff and students to re-apply throughout the day.
- Students will be required to wear sun safe hats (not caps) at all outdoor events
- Additional shade facilities provided for outdoor events (Athletics day, Fun run, etc) through use of portable gazebos.

### **Planning and Management**

- Our wide range of quality learning environments provide flexibility to reduce time spent by students in the sun between 10:00am and 2:00pm.
- Physical Education classes are able to make use of the hall and several undercover spaces when practicable for lessons.
- Consultation within the school community allows for alternative play and maximisation of school facilities during extreme weather conditions.
- Our Sun Safety Policy is implemented and regularly reviewed as part of our Extensive Risk Management Plan.

### **Communication:**

- The sun safe policy will be readily accessible to staff via the digital notice board (Sharepoint)
- Ongoing reinforcement to parents and the wider community of the schools sun safe policy will be added periodically to the school newsletter.
- The sun safe policy will be provided to staff and parents through the school handbook(s) and linked to the uniform policy.