

St Joseph's Primary School

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SUNSMART POLICY

RATIONALE

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Two out of every three Queenslanders will develop some sort of skin cancer in their lifetime. Research suggests that at least two-thirds of all melanomas occurring in Australia could be prevented if children were protected from the sun during their first 15 years.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows that severe sunburn contributes to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.

Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are highest during the hours that students are at school. With this in mind, St Joseph's Primary School realises the need to protect students' skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

AIMS

The policy aims to:

- Provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection;
- Provide environments that support SunSmart practices;
- Raise awareness of the need to schedule outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices.

PROCEDURES

Our school recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. The implementation of this policy and ongoing community education will therefore be conducted throughout the year.

The purpose of this SunSmart policy is to endeavour to build understanding about the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year and educate our members about preventative action and behaviours that assist in minimizing the risk of skin cancer.

OUR COMMITMENT

St Joseph's Primary School will:

- Inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their child
- Include the SunSmart policy statement in the parent handbook
- Increase where possible the amount of shade in the school grounds

- Incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum
- Encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- Regularly promote this SunSmart policy and information provided by the Cancer Council Queensland through newsletters, parent meetings, website, parent portal and App
- Students and staff are to wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears and SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities
- Vigilantly sustain a “No Hat, No Play” policy
- Maintain the school dress code to conform with the Brisbane Catholic Education Sun Protection School OH&S Standard clothing guidelines
- Students to wear SunSmart clothes during outdoor activities
- Endeavour to provide adequate shade at sporting carnivals and other outdoor activities such as cultural events Fete etc.
- Review the SunSmart policy at three year intervals.
- Investigate further actions and innovations which continue to support our growth as a SunSmart school.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Parents/Carers will:

- Provide a school hat for their child
- Encourage their child to use SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen regularly
- Ensure their child’s clothing provides adequate protection from UVR when not wearing the school uniform on free dress days, camps and excursions. Clothing to include sleeved shirt and appropriate hat
- Act as positive role models by practicing SunSmart behaviours
- Support the school’s SunSmart policy
- Notify the school if a student is unable to use school provided sunscreen and provide appropriate sunscreen for their child.
- Include Sun Safe messages on Parent Slips distributed when students are participating in sporting events and excursions.

Students will:

- Be aware of the school’s SunSmart policy through the support of each classroom teacher
- Take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart by applying sunscreen and wearing their hat
- Comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable clothing when not in school uniform
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- Participate in SunSmart education programs through school based Health lessons

POLICY REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed by the St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Board not less frequently than once every three years.

Policy Dates			
Implemented	February, 2017	Reviewed	April, 2020
Next Review Due	April, 2023		
Policy Authorisation			
Principal	Mr Nic Constable	Signature	nic.constable@bne.catholic.edu.au