



Sun Protection Policy

The Vision Statement for Catholic Education underpins and guides the development and implementation of this policy.

Each Catholic community, organisation and individual collaboratively engaged in the educational ministry of the Church in the Archdiocese of Brisbane is called to:

Teach

We promote faith in Jesus Christ, teaching and learning about Jesus, the gospel and the faith of the Catholic Christian community. Learning is lifelong, life-giving and engages the whole person.

Challenge

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we challenge those we educate to live in communion with God, others and the whole of creation in prayerful, sacramental, just, peaceful, inclusive and reconciling communities.

Transform

We educate for a transformed world in communion, by nurturing the gifts and potential of each person, enacting shared leadership, and exercising a preferential option for the poor and the marginalised.

Sun Protection Policy Statement

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 cancerous 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 children are at school. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about Sun Smart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage and 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 Sun Smart practices.
- create an awareness of the need to reschedule work commitments and outdoor activities to support Sun Smart practices.

Procedures

Our school recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. The implementation of the policy will therefore be conducted throughout the year. The purpose of the Sun Smart policy is to ensure that all children attending our school are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

We will also minimise the risk of sun damage to our students by

- increasing the amount of shade in the school grounds, where possible, by building shelters etc.
- planting trees.
- incorporating education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum.
- encouraging all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of Sun Smart behaviour.
- ensuring that all students and staff wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears, and are reminded to wear sunscreen in accordance with its manufacturers.

Our Expectations

Responsibilities of Students

Students will:

- Take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart.
- Comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats, clothing, sunscreen.
- Apply SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.
- Provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.

Responsibilities of Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers will:

- Provide a School SunSmart hat for their child to wear to and from school.
- Ensure that their child applies SPF30 or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school.
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour
- Provide SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for students to apply at school.
- Support the School's SunSmart policy

Responsibilities of the School

The school staff will:

- Act as positive role models for children in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.
- Seek Shade: Make sure there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas
- Ensure that all students wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears.
- Provide reminders to students to reapply sunscreen, when they are involved in outdoor activities e.g., Playtime, sports carnivals, excursions.
- Encourage children to provide their own sunscreen and apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Insist students without adequate sun protection (e.g., hat) use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times. No Hat – No Play.
- Ensure that, wherever practicable, outdoor activities will be minimised between 10am and 3pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time [AEST]).
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events.