



SunSmart Policy and Procedure

Sacred Heart Parish School SunSmart Policy aims to provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection. We aim to provide environments that support SunSmart practices and create an awareness of the need to reschedule work commitments and outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices.

Rationale

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.

Sacred Heart Vision/Mission

To develop Spirit, Mind and Body in Our Catholic Community. We will achieve this by:

- Living Catholic *Faith, Values and Traditions* that acknowledge our heritage.
- Delivering a holistic education that supports the development of the lifelong learner.
- Developing positive and inclusive relationships based on Christian Values.

The Vision Statements for Catholic Education and Sacred Heart underpin and guide the development and implementation of this policy.

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 students 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.

With this in mind *Sacred Heart Parish School, Booval* realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

Policy Statement

School Responsibilities:

- Encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour, including wearing of broad brimmed hats.
- Students without approved hats will be restricted to designated shaded areas.
- Students and staff will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF15+). Sunscreen will be provided in each classroom, and on excursions. Sunscreen will be applied by students according to the manufacturer's directions, under the supervision of teachers.
- Inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their student.
- Include the SunSmart policy statement in the school prospectus.
- Seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation, through newsletters, parent meetings etc.
- Review the school uniform to conform with the Queensland Cancer Fund SunSmart clothing guidelines.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events.

Scope

The parents/carers, students and teachers each have specific responsibilities to ensure regular attendance at school.

Parents/Carers Responsibilities:

- Provide a school approved hat for their child and ensure that they wear it to and from school.
- Protection from UVR including:
 - Collars and sleeves.
 - Closely woven fabric.
- Rash shirts must be worn for swimming.
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour.
- Ensure that their child's clothing for non-uniform school events provides adequate support of the school's SunSmart policy.

Student Responsibilities:

- Be aware of the school's SunSmart Policy.
- Take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart.
- Comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines.