

# Sacred Heart School SunSmart Policy



## 1. PURPOSE

The Sacred Heart SunSmart Policy outlines Sacred Heart School's position on managing ultra-violet radiation (UVR) through sun protection and sun safety strategies. This policy applies to all students, staff, volunteers and other persons who carry out work for Sacred Heart School.

Sacred Heart SunSmart Policy aims to:

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

This policy must be read in conjunction with *Sacred Heart School SunSmart Procedure* and the *Sacred Heart School Uniform Policy and Procedure*.

## 2. RATIONALE

Evidence has shown that limiting exposure to ultra-violet radiation (UVR) during childhood can significantly reduce the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. With this in mind, Sacred Heart School promotes 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.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows 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 children are at school.

## 3. POLICY STATEMENT

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research indicates childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer in later life. Given students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, Sacred Heart School plays a major role in both minimising a student's UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour. As students spend a portion of their day outdoors; we are committed to protecting them from the harmful effects of the sun.

## 4. PRINCIPLES

- **People-focused:** build trusting relationships by respecting individuals and the community.
- **Dignity:** The Catholic social teaching principle of human dignity is about understanding that each person is made in God's image.
- **Justice and equity:** acknowledging the different characteristics and circumstances of the full range of students in the school and catering for all the educational implications of these differences.
- **Partnerships and openness:** working collaboratively with employees, students, families, parish and community.