



SunSmart Policy

Aim

This policy aims to protect all employees, students, contracted services, parents, families and volunteers of St Joseph's School from the harmful effects of UV radiation exposure.

Involvement

This policy applies to all employees, students, visitors, contracted services, families and volunteers of St Joseph's School while on the premises and involved in excursions that require leaving the premises.

Rationale

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancers account for 80 per cent of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia, making it by far the most common type of cancer diagnosed.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Given students and employees are at school during peak UV times, schools play a major role in providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term SunSmart behaviour. With this in mind, schools need to take into account the need to support students, employees, parents and visitors to the school by providing and promoting a SunSmart environment.

Procedures

To assist with implementation of this policy, employees and students are encouraged to access daily local sun protection times via the SunSmart App or www.sunsmart.com.au. Whenever practicable, outdoor activities are scheduled to minimal time outdoors during periods when the UV is high to extreme (UV 6 or above).

Healthy physical environment:

Seek shade

Provide a variety of shade (i.e. built, natural and portable) in all areas where students congregate including areas for lunch, outdoor teaching and sport. Encourage students to use available shade and shade availability when planning all outdoor events and excursions. Conduct regular shade assessments to determine future needs.

Healthy social environment:

Slip on sun protective clothing

Make school uniforms SunSmart as per Cancer Council Queensland recommendations. This includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts, and long pants. Encourage rash vests or T-shirts for outdoor swimming.

Slap on a hat

Ensure hats worn by students cover the face, neck and ears such as broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.

Slop on sunscreen

Make SPF 50 or higher broad-spectrum available, water-resistant sunscreen or encourage students to supply their own. Encourage students to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and to reapply every 2-4 hours, when outdoors for extended periods (or as specified on label).

Learning opportunities

Include learning activities that promote sun protection in the curriculum for all year levels. Teachers and staff are encouraged to complete Cancer Council's free online learning modules (Generation SunSmart).

Role modelling by staff

Ask employees to role model good sun protection behaviours when outside, including wearing sun-safe hats, clothing and sunglasses. Applying SPF50 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen and seeking shade whenever possible.

Engaging the school community

Regularly reinforce and promote SunSmart behaviour to the whole school community (students, employees, families and visitors) via newsletters, website/intranet, social media, school assemblies, parent/teacher meetings and student enrolment/staff orientation.

Encourage families and visitors to role model sun protection behaviours when involved in school activities.

Compliance

Students not wearing a hat during outdoor play activities must sit in the shade or the lunch shed. St Joseph's endorses the 'no hat no play' policy. Any student without a hat for excursions must borrow a spare school hat to enable participation in the event/ activity.

Policy Timing and Review

This policy is effective from October 2025 and will be reviewed every three years to ensure it remains current and practical. Policy updates and requirements will be made available to the school community.

Date of Issue: October 2025

Date of Next Review: October 2028

Mr Greg McMahon

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Board
Chairperson



Mrs Melissa Hobson
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Principal