

Guideline/Procedure	
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SunSafe Policy

Values

Responsibility, Self-discipline, Knowledge, Respect for Self and Others, Health Awareness, Love.

Policy Overview

Increased exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Far North Queensland has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world.

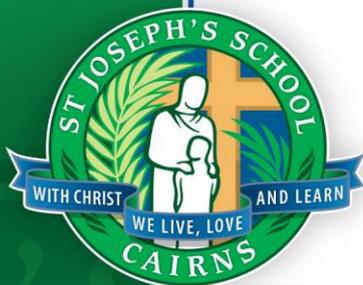
"Childhood sun exposure is an important contributing risk factor in the development of skin cancer later in life. Teaching sun safety practices to children throughout their learning years helps shape healthy long term habits." (Cancer Council Queensland 2017)

This policy is followed all year round as the UV radiation levels in Cairns are always high, very high or extreme during peak UV periods (10am – 3pm). This policy is designed to reduce damage from UV radiation and reinforce lifelong SunSmart behaviours.

Staff will act as role models in line with the SunSmart program requirements and WHS standards. Staff are required to adopt all protective measures put in place by their employer as part of employee OHS responsibilities.

Objectives

1. Our SunSafe Policy will have as its goal protecting St Joseph's staff and students from unsafe exposure to the sun.
2. Sun safety culture will be thoroughly communicated and encouraged throughout the school community.
3. Sun safety will be a paramount consideration in the planning and implementation of school activities.
4. The school will seek to develop an infrastructure and environment which provides adequate shade and protection from the sun.
5. Students and staff are to use appropriate sun protection when engaged in any St Joseph's organised outdoor activities or excursions, eg sunscreen applied, sunsafe clothing including wide brimmed hats, collared shirts and sleeves must be worn. Parents and Volunteers are also encouraged to abide by this.
6. Sun safety will be of fundamental importance when considering any future change to the school's uniform



Implementation Strategies/Guidelines

1. **Shade:**

- St Joseph's School will ensure as much shade as practicable, eg marquees on the oval for events, shade trees

2. **Clothing:**

Mandatory requirements for school or sports uniform and staff professional dress standards aim to provide maximum comfort and sun protection for students and staff (adhering to Cancer Council of Australia Guidelines):

- Ensuring that a wide brimmed hat is retained as essential uniform
- Materials used provide maximum sun protection and comfort for students
- Design adopted to provide as much skin coverage as practical

3. **Hats:**

- Full brimmed hats providing appropriate coverage to be worn by staff and students for all outdoor activity
- No hat – no play

4. **Sunscreen:**

- Sunscreen use encouraged for staff and students for all outdoor activity
- Sunscreen is available for staff and student use

5. **School Culture:**

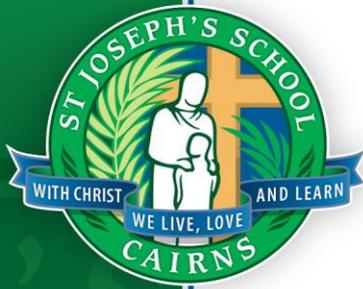
Sun safety culture will be communicated and promoted throughout the school by:

- Parents, Teachers, Students
- Periodic items in the St Joseph's School Publications and Communications
- Promoting awareness in classes through the health curriculum and sun safety activities
- Student learning activities will emphasise the five sun protective measures that are key to preventing cancer - slip on protective clothing, slop on sunscreen, slap on a broad-brimmed hat, seek shade, and slide on wrap-around sunglasses when outdoors

6. **School Activity Planning:**

Sun Safety will be considered when planning and implementing school activities by:

- Conducting activities in adequately covered areas
- Activities which must be held on the play field or tennis court will attempt to be scheduled early in the morning or after big lunch in less intense hours of sunlight
- On sports carnival days, adequate shade will be provided for students while they are not competing; parents and other spectators will be encouraged to join the students or provide their own shade e.g. umbrella or portable structure
- Outdoor activities will be conducted at a cooler time of the day or year when possible



7. School Future Development:

The Sun Safe Policy implementation will be at the fore of any future school development when/by:

- Planning new/renovating buildings, planting shade trees and enhancing the natural environment of the school
- Planning any changes to school uniforms
- Planning for learning in outdoor spaces

Consequences

Sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the school curriculum.

Students and staff are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.

SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, online publications, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, classroom activities and on student enrolment.

References

<https://cancerqld.org.au>. 2017. *National SunSmart Program*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://cancerqld.org.au/>. [Accessed 13 September 2017].
