

SunSmart Policy

REFLECTION MATERIAL:

Diocesan Sun Safety Policy
Schools SunSmart Policy Guidelines
http://www.cancerqld.org.au/icms_docs/54253_SunSmart_policy_guidelines.pdf

VALUE STATEMENT:

St Joseph's School Community endeavours to protect children's skin from exposure to the sun. We will educate them in sun-safe practices with the view to reduce the risk of skin damage in later life.

RATIONALE:

Protecting children from the sun means they are less likely to develop skin cancer as adults. Australia has the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year are skin cancers. There is considerable evidence that UV radiation exposure, particularly during childhood and adolescence, contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of developing skin cancer.

POLICY:

St Joseph's School Community will promote a safe and healthy learning environment by developing and implementing SunSmart practices.

PRACTICES: St Joseph's will:

1. Provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin damage prevention.
2. Incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum.
3. Provide learning and recreation environments that minimise exposure to the sun.
4. Create an awareness of the rescheduled work commitments, school lessons and outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices.
5. Create an awareness of SunSmart procedures to school families through newsletter inserts.
6. Plan lessons to reduce time spent in the sun between 10am and 2pm.
7. Enforce the "No Hat, No Play" rule.
8. Encourage the use of SPF 30+ sunscreen by promoting its usage in the school newsletter and providing each class with SPF 30+ sunscreen. SPF 30+ sunscreen to be made available to all students at sporting and other outdoor events.
9. Incorporate UV protection into school uniform decisions.
10. Inform new employees and families of our SunSmart policy.
11. Include the SunSmart policy in the school prospectus.
12. Maximise the use of shaded areas, fully covered playground equipment and multi-purpose covered areas.
13. Encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.