



## Sunsmart Policy

### Rationale

It is the responsibility of Holy Rosary School to ensure the safety and well being of children in our care. This policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending the school are protected from the damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. This policy is to be implemented throughout the whole school year.

UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70. By teaching sensible sun protection habits from an early age and implementing sun protection measures, schools can play a significant role in reducing skin cancer risk.

### Scope

This policy applies to Holy Rosary staff, students and members of the school community.

### Aim

- to increase student and community awareness of skin cancer risks and of practical means of protection
- to develop strategies that encourage responsible decision-making about skin protection
- to work towards a school environment that provides adequate shade for students and teachers
- to ensure that students and teachers wear suitable clothing and hats for outdoor activities during daily recommended sun protection times. (*The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.*)

### Implementation

Holy Rosary School will:

- require students to wear broad-brimmed hats whenever they are outside for onsite and offsite activities (e.g. lunch breaks, sport, excursions) on days of recommended sun protection
- Ensure a supply of sunscreen in classrooms and to take on excursions
- encourage the daily application of sunscreen before school and remind students to reapply sunscreen before going outside to work or play

- direct students who do not have hats with them on days of recommended sun protection to play (remain) under the library. No hat – No play.
- encourage children to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities
- request and encourage staff and parents to act as role models by practising Sunsmart behaviour
- on days of extreme heat and/or at the discretion of the Principal, direct students to stay indoors for their breaks
- include sun-protective clothing items as part of the school uniform
- organise outdoor activities to be held in areas with plenty of shade whenever possible
- work toward increasing the number of shelters and trees so as to provide additional shade in the school grounds
- encourage children to use available shade for outdoor play activities
- incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention into the curriculum at all grade levels
- regularly reinforce Sunsmart behaviour in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities
- review the Sunsmart behaviour of students, staff, parents and visitors and make recommendations for improvement
- assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision
- update and promote curriculum material relevant to Sunsmart activities.

### **Review Cycle**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle

### **Related Policies**

Duty of Care Policy

Supervision Policy

Occupational Health and Safety Policy

### **References**

[SunSmart Resources for schools](#)

[Department of Education and Training - Sun and UV Protection](#)

[Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)

[Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#)