



Sun Safety Policy

Developed by: Staff and School Board

Note: All references to 'staff members' include Administration staff, ESO staff, Teachers and Temporary Relieving Teachers

Underlying Assumptions, Philosophy and Rationale:

We at St Mary Magdalene's Primary School believe that:

- Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world
- Ultra Violet (UV) radiation is part of the Sun's light that burns and damages the skin
- The higher the UV radiation the greater the potential for damage to skin
- Too much exposure to UV will cause skin damage, too little can lead to Vitamin D deficiency
- To ensure a healthy balance between UV exposure and UV protection, it is recommended that skin is protected when UV is 3 and above
- The crucial period for sustaining sun damage occurs during the first 10 years of life
- Schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through education and modelling
- Wearing a hat and sunscreen when participating in outside activities when UV is 3 and above is a positive and healthy habit for children to form
- Schools have a responsibility to initiate and implement skin cancer prevention strategies in the interests of students' health

Purpose / Aims:

Through the application of this policy, we at St Mary Magdalene's aim to:

- Increase the school community's awareness of skin cancer and the importance of skin protection
- Increase the school community's awareness of the importance of a healthy balance between UV exposure and UV protection
- Encourage children's responsibility for and decision making about skin protection
- Increase awareness of the need for environmental changes in our school to reduce the level of exposure to the sun
- Encourage students, parents/carers, staff and visitors to wear protective clothing, hats and apply sunscreen and seek shade when the UV rating is 3 and above

Guidelines:

Sun protection practices such as hats, sunscreen, seeking shade, rescheduling, protective clothing are to be undertaken in Terms 1, 3 and 4 and when the UV is 3 and above at other times.

In support of this policy:



The Principal will:

- Inform parents/carers of the Sun Safety Policy during enrolment
- Encourage staff to act as role models by:
 - Wearing protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when UV reading is 3 or above
 - Apply SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen when UV reading is 3 or above
 - Seeking shade when the UV is 3 and above
 - Encourage families and visitors to use a combination of these sun protection measures when attending and participating in outdoor activities
 - Regularly reinforce and promote sun safety behavior and practices to the whole school community (e.g. via newsletters, assemblies, bulletin boards, parents and staff meetings)
 - Ensure that appropriate skin protective clothing included in the school uniform/dress code including top with collars and longer sleeves and longer style skirts, dresses and shorts are recommended

The Staff will:

- Wear an appropriate hat when participating in any school outdoor activity including yard duty when the UV rating is 3 and above
- Model appropriate Sun Safety behaviour
- Ensure that all students wear the school bucket hat whenever they are involved in outdoor school activities when the UV rating is 3 and above
- Whenever possible all outdoor activities will be scheduled out of high risk UV times
- Encourage students to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before they come to school each day and 20 minutes prior to outdoor activities on days when the UV rating is 3 or above. Reapplication every two hours if staying outside for extended periods of time will also be promoted
- Ensure that sun protection skin cancer prevention and vitamin D education is included in the curriculum across all year levels
- Ensure that the 'No hat, play in the shade' rule is enforced on days when the UV rating is 3 and above

Students will:

- Wear a school hat whenever they are involved in outdoor school activities when the UV rating is 3 and above
- Wear the school uniform which includes a polo top with a collar and longer style shorts
- Be encouraged to apply SPF30+ sunscreen before school and again 15 minutes prior to lunch each day when the UV rating is 3 and above and reapply every 2 hours when outdoors
- Follow the 'No hat, play in the shade' rule when the UV rating is 3 and above



Parents will:

- Ensure that all students have a hat at school on days when the UV rating is 3 and above
- Provide alternate sunscreen for those with allergies to regular brand sunscreen
- Be aware of the school's 'Sun Safety Policy'

Visitors will:

- Be encouraged to follow the school's 'Sun Safety Policy'

School grounds:

- The school makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate
- In consultation with CESA, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds
- Children are encouraged to make use of available shaded areas when outside
- Support recommendations to seek shade during 1st and 2nd lunch breaks when UV is 3 and above
- Provide permanent or temporary shady structures within school grounds

Excursions and School Events Procedure:

- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities
- On swimming excursions children and educators will be encouraged to wear sun safe swim shirts (rashi vests) or white t shirts when swimming as well as hats that can be worn in the water
- Hats are compulsory on school excursions

Implementation:

- All members of staff will have access to the 'Sun Safety Policy' via the school's intranet
- Parents/Carers and the community will be informed of this policy via the newsletter and can access the policy via the school website

Basis of Discretion:

- The Principal and staff may use their discretion and relax sun protection behaviours when the UV levels are below 3. As sunlight is the main source of vitamin D which is vital for the development and maintenance of healthy bones, students can safely be outside without sun protection and hats and sunscreen are not required.



Support Documents:

Catholic Education Safety Manual, Health and Safety Policy: UV Radiation Protection Policy (No.12)
Duty of Care Policy (SACCS, 2004)
Policy for the Care, Wellbeing and Protection of Children and Young People (SACCS, 2011)
Cancer Council SA website <www.cancersa.org.au>

Financial Budget:

Budget for SPF 30+ Sunscreen for Staff and students

Resources:

SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Mercer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

21 March 2023

Date

Peter Mercer
Head of Campus
(on behalf of the School Board)

Sun Safety Policy will be reviewed at least every three years

Date to be reviewed: 2026