



## Sun Protection Policy

### **1. Rationale**

Queensland has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Two out of every three Queenslanders are likely to develop some sort of skin cancer in their lifetime. With this in mind, St Finbarr's realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about sun protection behaviours, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from over-exposure to the sun.

### **2. Definition**

Sun safety is protection from harmful exposure to the sun.

### **3. Policy Aims**

- To provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection
- To provide environments that support sun protection practices
- To create an awareness of the need to reschedule work commitments and outdoor activities to support sun protection practices

### **4. Values**

The Gospel calls us to care for ourselves and each other. As a consequence this sun protection policy seeks to promote self-respect, commitment, responsibility and self-esteem.

### **5. Policy Statement**

Sun protection principles should be incorporated into school curriculum and community planning and activities.

### **6. Obligations**

Sun Protection measures should be practical as well as protective.

- Shade should be provided for outdoor activities, where practicable, irrespective of the season.
- Teachers should be flexible in their planning and timing of daytime outdoor activities.
- Parents, teachers, ancillary staff and volunteer helpers should demonstrate their adoption and practice of sun protection principles and in doing so, act as role models for students.

#### 6.1 St Finbarr's will:

- Inform parents of the Sun protection Policy when they enroll their child.
- Maximise the use of shade in the school grounds, where reasonably practicable, by building shelters and/or planting trees.
- Incorporate education programs into the school curriculum that focus on skin cancer prevention
- Advise all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of Sun Protection behaviour.



- Seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the Sun Protection Policy and its implementation, through newsletters, parent meetings, and the like.
- Ensure that all students and staff wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears and SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when involved in outdoor activities.
- Supply each classroom with a container of sunscreen approved by the Queensland Cancer Council.
- Ensure that students without adequate sun protection use shaded or covered areas at breaks.
- Investigate portable shade options for students and visitors to the school during activities held outside between the hours of 10am and 2pm.

#### 6.2 Staff will:

- Practice Sun Smart behaviour as described above.
- Enforce a 'no hat – no play' rule.
- Supervise children's application of sunscreen.
- Direct children to play in shaded areas where possible.

### **7. Our Expectations**

#### 7.1 Parent/guardians will:

- Provide their child with a school approved hat in school colours.
  - ♦ 8-10cm broad-brimmed or
  - ♦ legionnaire style
- Encourage the use of SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school.
- Act as positive role models by practicing Sun Smart behavior.
- Support the school's Sun Protection Policy.

#### 7.2 Students will:

- Be aware of the school's Sun Protection Policy.
- Take responsibility for their own health and safety by being Sun Smart.
- Comply with the Sun Protection Policy's rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats, clothing, sunscreen and sunglasses.
- Apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Wherever possible use shaded or covered areas when outdoors.
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of Sun Protection behaviour.
- Participate in Sun Smart education programs.

<https://cancerqld.org.au/cancer-prevention/understanding-risk/being-sunsmart/>  
[https://quest.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/PHQQ06\\_SchoolsKit\\_FA.pdf](https://quest.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/PHQQ06_SchoolsKit_FA.pdf)