

Sun Smart Policy

Scope: This policy applies to all staff, students, parents and visitors of St Mary's School Mackay.

Policy Statement:

St Mary's considers sun safety a very important element in the life of the school community. St Mary's school is committed to implementing strategies to educate children about the dangers of prolonged exposure to sunlight and ways to reduce the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. The school plays an important role in educating students about, and promoting the importance of, sun-safe practices. The school aims to minimise staff and student exposure to ultraviolet radiation through this sun safety policy, which includes a range of sun-safe strategies and addresses workplace health and safety requirements.

Implementation Issues:

- Students are required to wear the sun-safe school uniform when at school. Students to wear their broad-brimmed hat when in the sun. *"No hat, no outside play."*
- The school will supply SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, and encourage students to apply on uncovered areas of the skin (such as the face, arms, legs and the back of the hands) for all outdoor activities.
- Students to wear appropriate sun-safe clothing while on excursions and camps.
- Students to wear swim shirts/rash vests during all water-based activities at outdoor venues, except when racing.
- The school will prioritise the inclusion of artificial and natural shaded areas around the school grounds.
- Staff will reinforce sun-safe messages to students, including learning activities that promote sun protection.
- Staff have a duty of care to do what is reasonably practical to protect themselves and students from the harmful effects of the sun, including wearing sun-safe clothing (overshirt), a broad-brimmed hat and applying sunscreen.
- The principal will communicate sun-safe messages to the school community through newsletter articles, inclusion of this policy on the school website and in daily routines (e.g. lunch time routines).
- Parents will support the implementation of this sun smart policy and adhere to the necessary sun-safe requirements for their child. Parents are reminded of the need to be a good role model for their children.
- The Board will commit to maintaining the school's 'SunSmart School' accreditation with Cancer Council Qld.
- The Board will review this Sun Smart policy every 3 years, in line with Sun Smart school accreditation requirements.

Reflection Material:

- RCE: [Workplace Health and Safety Policy](#)
- Education Qld: [Sun Protection Strategy for schools](#)
- Education Qld: [Sun Safety in State Schools Procedure](#)
- Cancer Council [SunSmart Policy Guide](#)
- Cancer Council: [Sun Smart Schools Minimum Standards](#)