

SunSmart Safety Policy

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Values

Service, Learning, Self-respect, Care for One's Body, Good Health, Safety.

Rationale

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80 percent are skin cancers. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable. Given students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, between 10am and 3pm, schools play a major role in both minimising students' UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour.

Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are highest during the hours children are at school. As children will spend a portion of their day outdoors, we are committed to protecting them from the harmful effects of the sun. With this in mind, St Michael's realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

Policy

Activate all processes that ensure the protection of our students through SunSmart/Sun Safety practices namely:

- Ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention.
- Providing an environment that supports Sun Smart practices.

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Procedures

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The school will:

1. Inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their child.
2. Include the SunSmart policy statement in the school prospectus.
3. Increase the amount of shade in the school grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees.
4. Incorporate education programmes that focus on skin cancer prevention.
5. Encourage all teachers, staff, parents and visitors to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.
6. Seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation, through newsletters and parent meetings.
7. Ensure all students and staff wear broad brimmed hats that protect the face, neck and ears with broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when involved in outdoor activities.
8. Encourage students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at break times.
9. Review the school dress code to ensure that it conforms with The Cancer Council Queensland SunSmart clothing guidelines.
10. Ensure adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events.
11. The Staff, parents and visitors to the school will model sun safe behaviour.
12. Excursions - When children are participating in outside school events, all students staff and volunteers will be required to take a hat and comply with minimum sun protection standards.
13. Keep parents regularly informed about Sun Protection Awareness through newsletter items and information sheets.

Parents/Carers will:

1. Provide a SunSmart hat for their child and ensure they wear it to and from school.
2. Ensure their child applies broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school, unless health considerations prevent this.
3. Inform the school about allergic reactions to sunscreen.
4. Ensure their child's clothing provides adequate protection from UVR.
5. Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour.
6. Support the school in the promotion of sun safe behaviour.

Students will:

1. Be aware of the school's SunSmart policy.
2. Take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart.
3. Be responsible for applying their own sunscreen protection for daily application

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4. Comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing a broad brimmed hat, sunsmart clothing and sunscreen.
5. Apply broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors (if health considerations do not prevent this).
6. Use shaded or covered areas when outdoors (where practicable).
7. Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.