



ST KEVIN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy Document

SUN SAFETY

1.0 BACKGROUND

Significant research exists indicating that skin cancer is largely caused by overexposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) given off by the sun's rays. As Queenslanders, we face the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Avoiding overexposure to the harmful effects of the sun is seen as the best means of avoiding skin cancer.

Evidence exists to support that the risk of developing skin cancer is cumulative, meaning the more sun exposure experienced over time, the more likely the chance of developing skin cancer. Given our children are at school throughout the core UVR hours of 10am to 3pm each day, schools can play an important role in both minimising the effects of the sun and in fostering an environment in which children develop life long learning towards management and prevention of skin disorders.

With this in mind, the St Kevin's Catholic School community is committed to protecting our children from the harmful effects of the sun. We recognise the need to protect children's skin and educate them about appropriate Sun Safety behaviour, in an attempt to reduce the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

St Kevin's Catholic School's objectives in developing this policy are to:

- Provide ongoing education that promotes life long learning for skin cancer prevention and early detection;
- Provide environments within School and external settings that support Sun Safety practices; and
- Create an awareness to appropriately schedule outdoor activities to support Sun Safety practices.

3.0 PURPOSE

St Kevin's School recognises that the sun's harmful effects may be equally damaging throughout the winter months. Subsequently, it is intended for this policy to be enforced throughout the year.

The purpose of this Sun Safety policy is to ensure that all children and staff attending St Kevin's Catholic School are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

4.0 REQUIREMENTS

To be effective, this policy requires the commitment of both the School Administration and staff, together with the students and parent / carer network. The commitments and expectations of each sector of the School Community are detailed below.

4.1 St Kevin's Catholic School Administration and Staff

St Kevin's Catholic School is committed to:

- Informing parents / carers and the wider school community of the Sun Safety policy via the School Newsletters; Orientation Days; Information Evenings and the School Handbook;
- Providing details of the Sun Safety policy on the School's website;
- Encouraging all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for students by embracing appropriate Sun Safe behaviours;
- Ensuring induction processes for all new teachers and staff include information on this Sun Safety policy;
- Incorporating Sun Safety education programs focusing on skin cancer prevention into the School curriculum;
- Seeking opportunities to increase the amount of shade in the school grounds, via either structural or natural means;
- Providing portable shade structures for use by students, staff and spectators, where practicable, at School events such as athletics carnivals;
- Ensuring all students wear Broad Brimmed hats and SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen on exposed skin when involved in outside activities;
- Ensuring staff wear appropriate hats and sunscreen on exposed skin when involved in outside activities;
- Ensuring all students wear a Sun Safe shirt when participating in School swimming activities;
- Request all parents to provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for their children.
- With parental permission the school will supply SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen to students for outdoor activities, including sports days and special activity days.
- Undertaking an annual review of this Sun Safety policy.

4.2 Parents / Carers

St Kevin's Catholic School expects that Parents / Carers will:

- Ensure their child/ children are provided with the appropriate Broad-brimmed school hat and that they wear this hat to and from School each day;
- Support the School's Sun Safety policy and assist in the regular updating of the policy;
- Act as positive role models for children by practising appropriate Sun Safety behaviours;

4.3 Students

St Kevin's Catholic School expects that Students will:

- Comply with the School's uniform policy at all times;
- Be aware of the School's Sun Safety policy and assist in communicating this to the wider School community;
- Make use of shaded areas where-ever possible whilst outdoors;
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of Sun Safety behaviour;
- Participate in Sun Safety education programs implemented by the School.