



St Anthony's School, Dimbulah

SUNSMART POLICY

PREAMBLE:

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80% are skin cancers. Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life.

Given that students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, schools play a major role in both minimising student's UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is a result of cumulative exposure to the sun.

Research shows that severe sunburn contributes to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as sunspots, blemishes and premature aging. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable. Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are highest during the hours that children are at school.

As children will spend a portion of their day outdoors, we are committed to protecting them from harmful effects of the sun.

With this in mind St Anthony'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

AIMS:

The policy aims to:

- Provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection.
- Provide environments that support SunSmart practices
- Create an awareness of the need to reschedule outdoor activities or play in shaded or covered areas to support SunSmart practices

PROCEDURES:

St Anthony's School recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. This policy will therefore be implemented throughout the year.

The purpose of this SunSmart policy is to ensure that all children attending our school are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

OUR COMMITMENT:

St Anthony's School will:

- Inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their child
- Include the SunSmart policy statement on the school prospectus
- Increase the amount of shade in the school grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees
- Incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum

- Encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- Seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation, through newsletters, parent meetings etc.
- 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.
- Encourage students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times
- Review the school dress code to conform with the Queensland Cancer Fund SunSmart clothing guidelines
- Encourage SunSmart behaviour by wearing protective clothing for school swimming programmes
- Ensure that, wherever practicable, outdoor activities take place before 10am and after 3pm
- Ensure that SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is included in the school sports kit
- Have SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen listed with other items that students are required to buy for the school year
- Review the SunSmart policy annually

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Parents/carers will:

- Provide a broad-brimmed hat for their child and ensure that they wear it to and from school.
- Ensure that their child applies SPF 30+broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school.
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour
- Support the school's SunSmart policy and help design and regularly update the policy.

Students will:

- Be aware of the school's SunSmart policy
- Take responsibility for their own healthy safety by being SunSmart
- Comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats, clothing, sunscreen and sunglasses
- Apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors
- Use shaded or covered areas outdoors
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- Help design and regularly update the SunSmart policy
- Participate in SunSmart education programs