



# Sun Safe Policy

## Rationale

St Agnes School P-6 aim to protect and educate children to be aware of the importance of protecting their skin. We aim to encourage positive attitudes towards skin protection, promote lifestyle practices to help reduce the risk of skin cancer and encourage personal responsibility for their own protection.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy to provide the community with clear expectations to follow in regard to sun safe practices and the importance to protect from harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays.

## Objective

This sun protection policy has been developed to:

- encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever the UV Index reaches 3 and above.
- work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff, and the school community at appropriate times.
- assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- ensure families and new staff are informed of the school's sun protection policy.

## Implementation

Staff and students are encouraged to check the daily Sun Smart UV alert via the Bureau of Meteorology website

It is an expectation that all staff, students and parents of St Agnes School P-6 will use the following skin protection strategies during terms 1, 3 and 4 (or 1<sup>st</sup> August to 30 April) and when the UV is 3 and above. When the UV is below 3 in term 2 sun protection is not required:

### 1. Hats

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

### 2. Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code and sports uniform. The clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash tops or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

### 3. Sunscreen

- Students can provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and/or the school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students' use. Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours.



- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors and sunscreen buddies).

#### **4. Shade**

- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times, and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times or in the shade where possible. Sports days and other outdoor events to be held late term 1 or during term two or earlier in the day where practical.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

#### **5. Staff WHS and role modelling**

Staff will:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses (optional) when outside
- apply SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible

Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures e.g. sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade, when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

#### **6. Curriculum**

- Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and in student enrolment packs.

**The St Agnes Sun Safe policy will be reviewed on a two yearly basis, or as needed, in accordance with the Sun Smart Schools Program.**

**Policy ratified by Governing Council: June 2024**

**Next Policy Review Date: Term 2 2027**