



St Joseph's School, Atherton

Sun Protection Policy

INTRODUCTION

Queensland has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with two out of three people contracting skin cancer at some stage during their lives.

The major cause of the common skin cancer is cumulative unprotected exposure to the sun. Research shows that most skin damage occurs during childhood and adolescence.

For all these reasons, the St Joseph's School Community has a need to:

- a) Raise awareness in all members of the school community, especially our students, of the need to take all precautions to maximise protection from the sun.
- b) Make every effort to ensure we minimise children's exposure to the harmful effects of the sun – in and out of school hours.

The staff at St Joseph's School will support parents' efforts in both regards.

POLICY

This policy therefore will incorporate and encourage the following behaviour and activities within the school community throughout the school year:

- Staff and parents to model the wearing of hats for out-of-doors activities.
- School assemblies, when possible, will be in shade or indoors
- The requirement that each child will wear the St Joseph's School broad-brimmed or legionnaire hat throughout the school year.
- Reminder and encouragement from teachers and parents on the wearing of hats and other protective clothing eg. sunglasses
- No hat – no play – sit in assembly area. Whenever outdoors, teachers and students must wear hats, except for movement between classes.
- Children to eat lunch in the shade, especially in warmer months.
- Each classroom will have a container of SPF30+ Sunscreen (or higher broad-spectrum water-resistant) for students to use. Children will be encouraged to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before play breaks, PE, sports, swimming and any other outdoor activities, and to reapply every 2 hours when outside for extended periods (eg. sports days).
- Provision of SPF30+ Sunscreen to accompany all excursions, camps and sporting functions.
- Incorporating skin care and cancer protection in Health and Physical Education lessons.
- Provide portable shade structures and/or utilise permanent shade structures at sporting



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events and outside activities.

- Maintaining practice of early morning sport time as far as possible. Physical Education lessons and activities outdoors will be minimised between the hours of 10:00am and 3:00pm, and when possible our large Covered Outside Learning Area will be used.
- Continual encouragement, positive reinforcement and promotion of Sun Protection behaviors in the school newsletter, on assemblies and social media.

Monitoring and Reviewing

- The school leadership team, staff and students (Playground Guardians) will monitor and review the effectiveness of our Sun Protection policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.
- The school's Sun Protection policy is easily accessible to staff, students and parents via the parent handbook and/or website.
- This policy is effective from June, 2023 and will be reviewed every three years to ensure it remains current and practical.
- Policy updates and requirements will be made available to the school community.

Next policy review: 06/2026