



SUNSMART POLICY

RATIONALE

Skin cancers are the most common of all cancers in Australia, with Queensland having the highest incidence. Statistical data indicates that two out of every three Queenslanders living to the age of 75 can expect to develop some type of skin cancer. With these facts in mind, our objective is to help reduce the incidence of skin cancer through Sun Safety Programs in our school environment.

STATEMENT

Therefore at St Matthew's School, we aim to:

- Increase an awareness of the needs to protect individuals from the damaging effects of the sun
- Reduce the individual's exposure to ultra-violet radiation where practicable
- Provide adequate shade in our schools, where practicable
- Use sun safety awareness to guide the selection of an appropriate uniform.

PROCEDURE

- All employees, students, volunteers, contractors and others involved in the school community are to be included in the school's sun protection strategy.
- In order to maximise the understanding and effectiveness of the school's sun protection strategy and supporting programs, staff, students and other community members of the school are fully informed of their respective responsibilities.
- Parents are informed of the Sun Safety Program to help ensure children's compliance.
- Teachers and all school staff are expected to be sunsmart.
- No hat, no play! All children are expected to wear their school hats any time they are outdoors. This includes before and after school time.
- **Note:** Parents are notified by class teachers at parent nights of the availability of SPF 50+ in the classroom and provided with the brand details. Students are encouraged to access this. However, parents may prefer to supply and to apply the child's sunscreen and will write a note to teachers informing them of this.
- Effective educational programs or sun sense and preventative measures are provided in all year levels.
- Sun shirts are compulsory for all swimming lessons and carnivals. No sun shirt, no swimming.
- The use of available shade for outdoor activities is maximized by rostering groups to play in designated areas.
- Shade tree planting and caring programs are supported.
- Shade is provided when activities outdoors are prolonged (i.e. carnivals).