

## **Sun Protection (Students) Policy**

### **Commitment to Child Safety**

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe all of the time. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance for child abuse. At Sacred Heart we strive to maintain a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety. We are committed to continually reviewing our Child Safe policies and practices to ensure that every effort is made for ongoing improvement of our Child Safe environment.

We at Sacred Heart recognise that some groups of children are particularly vulnerable and we are committed to promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal/linguistically diverse children and also promoting the safety of children with a disability.

This policy follows the authority provided in Australian National Standards for Sunscreen products, Eye and Face Protection; Playground equipment and surfacing and Sun Protective Clothing; and was written in consultation with Cancer Council Victoria.

### **The Hazard - Sun Exposure**

Too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Sun exposure during childhood and adolescence contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of developing skin cancer. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancers account for 80% of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year. Melanoma is the most common cancer diagnosed for 15 - 29 year olds.

### **Sacred Heart's Policy**

Sacred Heart is committed to providing a safe working environment for all our students, workers and visitors.

It is our policy to:

- increase student and community awareness about skin cancer and sun protection
- encourage and require the entire School community to use a combination of sun protection measures when UV levels are 3 and above
- work towards a safe Sacred Heart School environment that provides shade for students, staff and the School community
- assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure that families and new staff are informed of this policy
- support student duty of care requirements
- support appropriate workplace safety strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

## **Sun Protection Strategies**

Sacred Heart has developed the following sun protection strategies:

### ***General***

- All students and staff use a combination of sun protection measures throughout the day whenever UV levels are three or above to ensure they are well protected at the appropriate times.
- UV levels are typically 3 and above from mid-August to the end of April.
- Active outdoor play is encouraged throughout the day all year, provided appropriate sun protection measures are used when UV is 3 and above.

### ***Shade***

- The School makes sure there is sufficient shelter and trees providing shade in the Sacred Heart School grounds particularly in areas where students congregate (e.g. lunch areas, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas).
- Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and outdoor activities.
- Students are actively encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside. Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to stay in an area protected from the sun.

### ***Hats***

- Students are required to wear the school broad brimmed hat that protects their face, neck and ears whenever they are outside from 1<sup>st</sup> of September through to 1<sup>st</sup> of May.
- Students who do not have an appropriate sun protective hat will be asked to stay under the veranda only.

### ***Sunscreen***

- The School supplies SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use. Sunscreen is stored at sick bay and classrooms.
- Parents/carers may also provide students with their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to be used while at Sacred Heart School or participating in Sacred Heart School activities.
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions, and at least 20 minutes before going outdoors. Sunscreen should be reapplied at least every two hours, and more frequently when participating in sport, sweating or swimming, and after towel drying.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

### ***Sunglasses***

- Close-fitting wrap-around sunglasses that comply with Australian Standards AS/NZS 1067.1 2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles, Part 1: Requirements (Sunglasses: lens category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area are optional.

### ***Role Modelling***

- Staff act as role models by using a combination of sun protection measures as outlined above when the UV level is 3 or above.
- Families and visitors are also encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses and sunscreen) when participating in and attending outdoor Sacred Heart School activities.

### ***Curriculum***

- Sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the Sacred Heart School curriculum, including use of clothing and sunscreen, prevention education, etc.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole School community.
- Sun safe behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole Sacred Heart School community through newsletters, School website, parent meetings, staff meetings, School assemblies, student and teacher activities and on student enrolment.

### ***Scheduling and Planning***

Sun protection is considered when planning all outdoor events (e.g. assemblies, camps, excursions and sporting events).

Before commencing an excursion, the organising staff will check the daily local sun protection times of the location, and continue to monitor for the duration of the excursion. Refer to the Excursions Policy.

### ***Staff Responsibility - WH&S***

Under WH&S requirements, all staff must follow the guidelines as set out in this policy to reduce their risk of occupational skin damage.

### ***Implementation***

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- staff and student training and awareness of issues relating to skin and safe sun exposure
- implementation of sun protection measures
- effective notification procedures
- effective communication procedures
- effective record keeping procedures
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

### ***Teacher Professional Learning***

Teachers are encouraged to complete Cancer Council's free **Generation SunSmart online teacher PL modules**.

## **Discipline for Breach of Policy**

Where a staff member breaches this policy Sacred Heart may take disciplinary action.

## **Review**

Sacred Heart is committed to the continuous review and improvement of all its operations, including this policy.

It is the responsibility of the Administration Officer to regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the Sun Protection Policy to ensure it is working in practice, and revise the policy when required.

## **Related Policies**

Student Duty of Care Program  
Workplace Safety Program - WH&S  
Heat Stress Policy  
Personal Protective Equipment Policy  
Sun Protection (General Staff) Policy  
Sun Protection (Outdoor Workers) Policy - WH&S  
Adverse Weather Policy  
Supervision & Inspection - Playground  
Uniform Policy  
Excursions Policy

## **External Resources**

SunSmart  
State and Territory Cancer Councils  
UV and Sun Protection Times  
ARPANSA: Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation  
Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens  
Generation SunSmart – free online training modules for staff and senior students

**Last Review: September 2020**