All Saints Catholic Primary School

Sun Smart Policy

Developed by: Staff and School Board

Note: All references to ‘Staff members’ include Administration Staff, Support Teachers, Teachers and Temporary Relieving Teachers.

Underlying Assumptions, Philosophy and Rationale:
We at All Saints Catholic Primary School believe that:

- Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world.
- Ultra Violet (UV) radiation is part of the Sun’s light that burns and damages the skin, which is independent of temperature and weather.
- The higher the UV radiation the greater the potential for damage to skin.
- Too much exposure to UV will cause skin damage, too little can lead to Vitamin D deficiency.
- To ensure a healthy balance between UV exposure and UV protection, it is recommended that skin is protected when UV is 3 and above.
- For much of South Australia this tends to occur from the beginning of August to the end of April.
- The crucial period for sustaining sun damage occurs during the first 20 years of life.
- Schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through education and modelling.
- Wearing a hat and sunscreen when participating in outside activities during the months when UV is 3 and above is a positive and healthy habit for children to form.
- During the months of May to the end of July sun protection (including hats) are not needed on the days when UV level is below 3.
- Schools have a responsibility to initiate and implement skin cancer prevention strategies in the interests of children’s health. The children, parents/carers, staff and visitors need to be aware of the harmful effects of UV radiation.

Purpose/Aims:
Through the application of this policy, we at All Saints Catholic Primary School aim to:

- Increase the school community’s awareness of skin cancer and the importance of skin protection.
- Increase the school community’s awareness of the importance of a healthy balance between UV exposure and UV protection.
- Encourage children’s responsibility for skin protection.
- Increase awareness of the need for environmental changes in our school to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.
- Encourage children, parents/carers, staff and visitors to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen from 1 September to the 31 May when involved in outside activities. E.g. break times, excursions, sporting activities, camps etc.
Guidelines:

The following procedures are for implementation during terms 1, 3 and 4.

The school community is encouraged to check the daily SunSmart UV Alert via the SunSmart app or via the Bureau of Meteorology website to assist with the implementation of this policy.

In support of this policy

The Principal will:

- Ensure that all staff, children, parent/carers are aware of the School’s Sun Smart Policy.
- Inform parents/carers of the Sun Smart Policy via the newsletter and website.

All Staff members will:

- Wear an appropriate sun protective hat when participating in any school outdoor activity including yard duty during terms 1, 3 and 4.
- Model appropriate Sun Smart behaviour by wearing sun protective clothing, sunglasses, sunscreen and seeking shade.
- Ensure that all children wear a school hat whenever they are involved in outdoor school activities during terms 1, 3 and 4.
- Whenever possible all outdoor activities will be scheduled out of the peak UV times of the day, or where possible conducted in the shade.
- Encourage children to seek shade.
- Encourage children to apply SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen before they come to school each day and reapply every 2 hours when outdoors when the UV is 3 and above.
- Ensure that skin cancer prevention education is included in the curriculum across all year levels.
- Ensure that the ‘No hat. No play’ rule is enforced during terms 1, 3 and 4.

Children will:

- Wear a school broad brimmed hat whenever they are involved in outdoor school activities during terms 1, 3 and 4.
- Wear correct school uniform which offers adequate UV protection.
- Be encouraged to apply SPF30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen before school and reapply every 2 hours when outdoors when the UV is 3 and above.
- Supply their own SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen.
- Follow the ‘No hat. No play’ rule during terms 1, 3 and 4.

Parents/Carers will:

- Ensure that all children wear a broad brimmed school hat during terms 1, 3 and 4.
- Ensure that all children wear the school uniform which offers adequate protection against UV radiation.
- Provide children with SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen.
- Be aware of the school’s ‘Sun Smart’ policy and role model sun protection when involved in outdoor activities at the school.

Visitors will:

- Be encouraged to follow the school’s ‘Sun Smart’ policy and role model sun protection when involved in outdoor activities at the school.
Implementation:

- All members of staff will have access to the policy via the school’s intranet.
- Parents/Carers and the community will be informed of this policy via the newsletter and can access the policy via the school website.

Basis of Discretion:

The Principal has the discretionary option to vary this policy on days with adverse weather conditions.

Support Documents:


Financial Budget:

Nil

Resources:

SPF 30+ Sunscreen made available for staff use.

Signed ___________________________ Date ___________________________ Sept 2016

(Principal on behalf of School Board)

Date to be reviewed ___________________________ Sept 2019