



ST BERNARD'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL UPPER MT GRAVATT

St Bernard's Catholic school, founded by the Sisters of St Joseph, shares in the educational mission of the church as part of St Bernard's Parish

SUN SMART POLICY

RATIONALE

St Bernard's Catholic School provides a written reference point on the subject for students, school staff, parents and care-givers and assists them in adopting SunSmart behaviours.

Data indicates that Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancers in the world. Research shows that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer in later life. Childhood and adulthood damage cannot be reversed, but further damage can be prevented by reducing exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) while involved in outdoor activities. Given that the school operates between 8am to 3pm daily, there is potential for sun exposure to UVR.

Under the Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Act, there are obligations imposed on a range of persons to reduce the risk of injury and/or illness.

POLICY

Guided by our Mission Statement to safeguard the physical well-being of all students, St Bernard's Catholic School has identified and recognised the risk to our students and school staff from sun exposure, and is determined to reduce this risk by managing the unprotected sun exposure of all members of our school community.

Assessing the risks associated with sun safety will be an ongoing requirement of the school's operation and will inform the following functional operations:

- Building and landscaping
- School uniforms
- Sports day functions
- Daily school activities and planning
- Educational focus

St Bernard's Catholic School will implement the policy through consultation with the representatives of all parties in a proactive manner.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

St Bernard's Catholic School will -

- inform parents of the SunSmart Policy when they enrol their child;
- include the SunSmart Policy statement in the school prospectus;
- increase the amount of shade in the school grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees;
- incorporate into the school curriculum, educational programs that focus on skin cancer prevention;
- encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour;
- seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the SunSmart Policy and its implementation, through newsletters, parent meetings, etc.;
- ensure that all students and staff wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears, ("No Hat – No Play" rule), and SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities;
- encourage students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times;
- review the school dress code to conform with the Queensland Cancer Fund SunSmart clothing guidelines;
- ensure that a SunSmart swim shirt or T-shirt is included in the swimming programme;
- ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events;
- ensure that SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is included in the school sports kit.

OUR VISION

Learning is child-centred, where children are prepared as life-long learners to meet challenges as compassionate Christian members of our community.

OUR MISSION

- To develop and nurture an environment where children learn about themselves, their world and God:
- By working in partnership with families, staff and the parish community
 - By valuing the diversity of all members of our community
 - By experiencing and living a Christian life in the Catholic faith.



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Parents/carers will -

- act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour;
- support the school's SunSmart Policy and help to design and regularly update the policy.

Students will -

- be aware of the school's SunSmart Policy;
- take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart;
- comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats, clothing, sunscreen;
- use shaded or covered areas when outdoors;
- act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour;
- help to design and regularly update the SunSmart Policy;
- participate in SunSmart educational programmes.

ASSOCIATED SCHOOL DOCUMENTS

- Mission Statement
- Code of Conduct
- School Uniform and Personal Appearance Policy

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CATHOLIC EDUCATION GUIDELINES

- Queensland Government SunSmart Policy
- Brisbane Catholic Education Workplace Health and Safety Guidelines
- Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually or at the following:

- As new developments/research occurs
- Legislation updates occur
- Brisbane Catholic Education requirements/guidelines change.

By this process, St Bernard's Catholic School ensures the best possible practices for its students, school staff, parents and care-givers.

AUTHORISATION

The St Bernard's Catholic School Board, in consultation with the school staff, Parents and Friends Association and the parish community endorses this policy.

This policy takes effect as of the date recorded below and is authorised by the Principal.

1 July 2008

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