



MacKillop Catholic Primary School Mackay SunSmart Policy

Approved: June 2020 | For Review June 2023

Policy Statement

MacKillop Catholic Primary School seeks to promote a safe, healthy working and learning environment through the awareness and implementation of appropriate sun safety strategies and practices.

Description

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancers account for 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia, making it the most common type of cancer.

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

Given students and employees are at school during peak UV times, schools play a major role in providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term SunSmart behaviour.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;

- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support duty of care requirements; and
- support appropriate WH&S strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Implementation Issues

1. The school will keep the issue of sun safety in mind - as well as matters relating to climate and functionality - when it makes decisions about school uniform and the development of facilities in the school (eg. shade areas etc).
2. The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities. Student are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
3. Where particular parents consider that special circumstances exist with respect to their own student(s) sun safety needs (for example, a long-sleeved shirt) then such arrangements can be made through contact with the Principal.
4. SPF 30+ (or higher) broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen will be made available in each classroom for staff and students' use. However, as some children may be sensitive to particular brands parents may choose not to have their child use the class supply and elect to provide another type where such sensitivity exists.
5. Attention should be given to the timing of Swimming and Athletics Carnivals each year.
 - a. Swimming/Athletics Carnival: At these times teachers and parents should be particularly mindful of wearing hats and applying sunscreen and all available shade structures will be used.
6. Staff and parents should be aware of the importance of role modelling appropriate sun safety behaviours for children. Staff are required to wear a hat when on Supervision duty or when working in outdoor areas.
7. To require that children have a school hat in order to participate in physical education and sporting activities at school and also to implement the school's "NO SCHOOL HAT, NO PLAY" rule when doing playground supervision.
8. Should sunglasses be required it is recommended that they comply with the 'Australian Standard'. The school requires that sunglasses be of a 'fully-framed' style of a suitable colouring (Eg. not overly-'loud') and should not have mirrored lenses.
9. On designated non-uniform days the children are required to wear sun safe clothing and a school hat.
10. To take advantage of shaded areas in the school/ grounds whenever possible when undertaking outdoor activities (e.g. making use of the 'Covered Area' and portable shade structures when suitable to an activity).

11. To include 'sun safety' in the school Health program.

Reflection Material

Reflection Material: “Schools and Early Childhood Sun Protection” Policy Guide - Cancer Council Queensland: <http://www.cancer.org.au>

Website: Sun safety at School – www.sun-safety.qld.gov.au/atschool

