



# Sun-smart Policy

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## Policy Statement

The community of Southern Cross Catholic College is committed to providing holistic education and developing the full potential of each of its members in light of Gospel Values. Therefore, it is important that each of its members develop responsible attitudes and practices to ensure their own safety and wellbeing in respect for God's gift of life. Safety, in particular sun safety, is intrinsic to conducting ourselves in a manner that is beneficial to self-preservation.

## Rationale

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Two out of every three Queenslanders will develop some sort of skin cancer in their lifetime. Research suggests that at least two thirds of all melanomas occurring in Australia could be prevented if children were protected from the sun during their first 15 years.

Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection and protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school

## Scope

The SCCC Sun Smart Policy is for students and staff to help develop responsible attitudes and practices in relation to sun safety. The aims of the policy are:

- To educate students as to suitable sun smart protection strategies;
- To encourage children and teachers to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun;
- To increase student and community awareness of skin cancer;
- To develop student behaviours which reflect responsible decision-making about sun protection;
- To provide a sun safe school environment;
- To encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high-risk times such as lunch times, sports, camps and excursions.
- To ensure that our uniform follows the guidelines established by the Cancer Council of Queensland.

## Principles

- SCCC Sun Smart Policy is to be included as part of our SCCC Uniform Regulations and Parent Handbook.
- All students will be required to wear an approved SCCC hat throughout the year.
- Staff will act as role models by following sun smart practices when outside.
- Students on primary campuses without SCCC hats will not be permitted to play outdoors. On the Middle and Senior Years campus, students without SCCC hats will be restricted to designated shaded areas.
- Students and staff will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF15+ or higher) when involved in outdoor activities.
- Students are required to wear sun shirts when taking part in swimming lessons. No sun shirt means no swimming.
- SCCC supports the wearing of UV protection sunglasses by all students and staff (Australian Standard 1067).
- Whenever possible, outside activities on hot days should be scheduled before 11.00am and after 2.00pm.
- The SCCC College Leadership Team will provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable; particularly over high density play areas such as sand pits and play equipment.
- The College newsletter and College assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the SCCC Sun Smart Policy. In the Middle Years and Senior Years, the Sun Smart Policy will be published annually in the student diary.
- Sun smart activities and ongoing sun protection education will form a part of the curriculum at all year levels.
- Parents are asked to encourage students to be aware of the dangers associated with exposure to the sun and support the efforts of the College to ensure protection for our children.
- Our College will maintain accreditation as a Sun Smart school with the Cancer Council of Queensland.
- The Cancer Council of Queensland will be contacted periodically to obtain up-to-date information and advice.