

## Rationale

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to reducing the risk of excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation for students and staff of St Mary's Catholic Primary School. For the avoidance of doubt, this policy applies to the Early Learning Centre, Outside School Hours Care and Vacation Care programs. Too much exposure to UV radiation from the sun can cause sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer.

This policy and relevant procedures are applied all year round in the Northern Territory given the UV radiation levels are always high, very high or extreme particularly during peak UV periods.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School staff will act as role models in line with the SunSmart program role modelling requirements and relevant Work Health & Safety (WHS) standards. Staff are required to adopt all protective measures put in place as part of employee WHS responsibilities and their conditions of employment.

## Policy Goals

- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection
- encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures throughout the year
- ensure a safe outdoor environment that provides shade for students and staff
- ensure families and new staff are informed of St Mary's Catholic Primary School Sun Protection Policy

## Implementation

This policy is implemented through the Sun Protection Procedure.

## Sun Protection Education

St Mary's Catholic Primary School uses the following communication strategies to minimise the risk of excessive exposure to UV.

### Curriculum

- Sun protection, vitamin D and skin cancer awareness programs are incorporated into appropriate areas of the school curriculum.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school homepage, parent meetings, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and on student enrolment.

### Role Modelling

- Staff act as role models by:
  - wearing sun protective hats (broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hats), clothing and sunglasses outside (please note that baseball caps do not offer enough protection and are therefore not acceptable)
  - applying SPF 30+ (or higher), broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
  - seeking shade whenever possible
- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses and sunscreen) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

### Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the St Mary's Catholic Primary School three year policy review cycle. This policy will be published on the St Mary's Catholic Primary School website.

### Review/Ratification History

Year of review	SIRF Committee Responsible	Ratified By / Date (Month/Year)
May 2019	Community and Culture	School Board
2022	Community and Culture	School Board – September 2022

Next Review: 2025



**ST MARY'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Learning in Faith & Love**

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