

VISION STATEMENT

We strive to create a school that truly equips young people for their engagement with the world and the challenges of this century, by fostering an attitude of learning with purpose and joy

VALUES

Our core values include Truth, Courage, Moral and Ethical Responsibility and Growth.

RATIONALE

Too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin and eye damage and increases the risk of developing skin cancer. Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world.

Adolescence and childhood are critical periods during which sun exposure is likely to contribute to skin cancer later in life. It is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practising sun protection in childhood and adolescence.

This policy has been developed as part of our commitment to a safe school environment, to reduce the risk to students and staff members of exposure to UV radiation from the sun.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this sun protection policy are to:

- increase student and whole-school awareness of skin cancer and other damage caused by exposure to UV radiation
- work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for the entire school community
- encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- ensure that families and new staff members are informed of the school's sun protection policy.

Information about the daily sun protection times is available in the weather section of the daily newspaper, on the *SunSmart website at: www.sunsmart.com.au, at myuv.com.au, as a free SunSmart app.*

SCOPE

This sun protection policy and procedures apply to all employees, students, visitors, volunteers and contractors at Sophia Mundi School and during offsite school activities.

IMPLEMENTATION

All students and staff use a combination of sun protection measures. Particular care is taken between 10am and 2pm (11am and 3pm daylight saving time) when UV Index levels reach their peak.

Our Sun Protection Policy is considered when planning all outdoor events, e.g. camps, excursions and sporting events. Where possible, we have outdoor activities or events earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon, or we consider using indoor venues.

Clothing: Students are encouraged to wear hats from Prep to Year 12, whenever they are outside, between the months of September to April. If students forget their hat, they should play in the shade. All staff are encouraged to wear broad-brimmed hats for all outdoor activities, including yard duty.

Shade: The school will continue to work towards increasing shade in its grounds, particularly in areas where students congregate (shade provision will be considered in plans for future buildings and grounds). Students will be encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

Sunscreen: Students and staff are actively encouraged to apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen regularly including before school, recess and lunch, PE lessons, sport, excursions etc.

Sport and Physical Education: Hat wearing is expected for students Prep to Year 12. Where possible, outdoor lessons are to be scheduled outside the peak UV times.

Camps and Excursions: Broad-brimmed hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen are required for all camps and excursions.

Sunglasses: Students and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wrap around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

ROLE MODELLING

Staff act as role models by wearing sun protective hats, clothing, sunglasses, broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen SPF 30+ and by seeking shade where appropriate.

CURRICULUM

Sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs are included in appropriate areas of the school curriculum.

Sun Smart behaviour is reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, assemblies and student / teacher activities.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Sun protection information in this document is included in the staff handbook, and new staff have access to a copy of this policy. Sun protection is included in staff training, to enable staff to work safely outdoors to encourage them to be positive role models.