

Sunsmart Policy

Rationale:

The SunSmart Policy for St Francis Xavier School, Goodna has been developed to ensure that all students and staff members attending this school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the Queensland sun.

Aims:

The policy aims to:

- Provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection
- Provide environments that support SunSmart practices
- Encourage the members of the school community to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen for high risk times such as lunch times, sports, excursions and all outside activities

Procedures:

Our school recognises that the winter sun also contributes to skin damage. The implementation of this policy will, therefore, be conducted throughout the school year.

The purpose of the SunSmart policy is to endeavour to have all children and staff members attending our school protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

Outdoor activities are minimised between 10am and 3pm where possible:

- Health and Physical Education lessons are held in the school hall
- A variety of shade is provided – including built and natural and children are encouraged to utilise these areas.

Our commitment:

St Francis Xavier School will:

- Inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their child/children at the school.
- Include the SunSmart policy statement on the school portal/public website
- Increase where possible the amount of shade in the school grounds
 - Shade (natural and built) is provided in our designated eating areas as well as on the oval

- Incorporate into the school curriculum education 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 behaviours
- Seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation through weekly school newsletter items, weekly school assemblies and on the school electronic notice board
- Encourage students and staff to wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears, and use SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities
- Will follow a 'no hat, no play' policy
- Encourage children to wear SunSmart clothes during outdoor activities
- Endeavour to provide adequate shade at sporting carnivals and other outdoor activities

Our Expectations:

Parents/ legal guardians will:

- Provide a SunSmart hat for their child/children and encourage them to wear the hat to and from school
- Ensure their child/children use SPF30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen regularly
- Ensure that their child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from ultraviolet rays
- Act as positive role models by practicing SunSmart behaviour
- Support the school's SunSmart policy

Students will:

- Be aware of the school's SunSmart policy
- Take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart
- Comply with the SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing the school uniform (including the hat) and use sunscreen at appropriate times
 - Our school uniform including the hat is designed with sun safety in mind
 - We have a 'no hat, no play' policy. Children who do not have a hat are expected to sit in the shade
 - We have a sunscreen policy which parents sign on the initial enrolment. Each class is provided with sunscreen (SPF30 or higher); the teacher encourages the children to apply sunscreen twenty minutes before they go out to play/eat
 - If children at outside for an extended period of time, they will be reminded to reapply sunscreen every two hours
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- Participate in SunSmart education programs

Evaluation:

The members of the Workplace Health and Safety Committee will:

- Review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy each year

- Review the SunSmart behaviour of students and staff members and make recommendations for improvement
- Access shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increase in shade provision to the Leadership Team
- Update and promote the curriculum material relevant to SunSmart activities (eg: information from the Queensland Cancer Council)