



**Mater Christi**  
Catholic Primary School

Policy: **Sun Protection Policy**

Originally Released: **2009**

Date for Review: **2019**

## **Rationale**

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Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research indicates that childhood and adolescent sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer. As students are at school during times when UV radiation levels are highest, schools play a major role in minimising student's UV exposure.

Our sun protection policy has been adopted to ensure that all staff and students attending *Mater Christi Catholic Primary School* are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. This policy is to be implemented throughout the year, but with particular emphasis from the beginning of August through to the end of May, when the forecast average monthly UV index in our area is 3 or above (information available from [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)). The sun protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. The policy has been developed in consultation with the whole school community.

## **Our Commitment**

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*Mater Christi Catholic Primary School will:*

- Inform parents of this sun protection policy when they enrol their child/children.
- Brief all new staff on the sun protection policy.
- Promote sun protection via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole school activities, and parent and staff meetings.
- Require staff to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats for all outdoor activities, including yard duty.
- Encourage parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.
- Require students to wear bucket hats when outside.
- Direct students without a bucket hat to stay in an area that is protected from the sun.
- Require students to wear bucket hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen for all camps, sports and excursions. Parents are encouraged to provide their children with rash vests during outdoor swimming events.
- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff, by planting trees and building shade structures. Particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.
- Encourage staff and students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Encourage the use of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen by:
  - providing sunscreen in the classroom.
  - explaining to parents about the importance of students arriving to school with their first application of sunscreen prior to the day commencing.
  - allowing students time to apply sunscreen 20 minutes prior to outdoor activities or at their return to class from the recess break.

- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.
- Review the sun protection policy annually.

## **Our Expectations**

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### *Parents/carers will:*

- Ensure your child/children has a school hat.
- Ensure that your child/children's clothing provides adequate protection from UV radiation. The Cancer Council WA recommends the following:
  - collars and sleeves
  - closely woven fabric
  - natural fibre
  - swim rash tops for swimming.
- Ensure that your child/children have applied SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before leaving for school.
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour.
- Support the school's sun protection policy.

### *Students will:*

- Be aware of the school's sun protection policy.
- Take responsibility for their health by being SunSmart.
- Comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing.
- Apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Use shaded or covered areas outdoors.
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour.
- Be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.
- Help design and regularly update the SunSmart policy.
- Participate in SunSmart education programs.

## **Evaluation**

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Key Staff will review the effectiveness of this policy as designated above.

### They will:

1. Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents, and visitors and make recommendations for improvement.
2. Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision.
3. Update and promote curriculum material relevant to SunSmart activities.



Visit [www.GenerationSunSmart.org.au](http://www.GenerationSunSmart.org.au) to receive **FREE** resources - Western Australia's Generation SunSmart website provides teachers and school nurses with online workshops offering helpful information, tips and practical ideas about sun protection education, content delivery and sun protection in schools.