



# SUN SMART POLICY

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## 1. Intent

Queensland has the highest rates of skin cancer in Australia and exposure to ultra violet radiation from the sun has been identified as the most important risk factor for skin cancer, the epidemiological evidence indicating that early childhood exposure is particularly significant. Exposure to the sun can be reduced through the use of sun protection clothing, application of SPF 50+ sunscreen and the use of quality shade. This Policy intends to provide strategies to reduce exposure to the harmful effects of the sun.

## 2. Scope

St Margaret's supports the promotion of sun-safe behaviour to minimise exposure of staff and students to the harmful effects of the sun when outdoors.

- Staff and students are expected to wear hats, protective clothing and sun screen.
- Staff are expected to model appropriate sun protective behaviours.
- Parents are encouraged to also model appropriate sun protective behaviours.
- Students are encouraged to use and reapply sunscreen
- The provision of protection from the sun is an important consideration when selecting or designing sport clothing and uniforms for outdoor workers.
- In the management and development of facilities and the School grounds the provision of shade area is an important consideration.

## 3. Guidelines

In addition, the school has the expectation that:

- The use of shaded areas is to be promoted by staff.
- Sunscreen (SPF 50+) is listed as a necessary item for students to bring to outdoor sports competitions, excursions and camps.
- Student education about the harmful effects of the sun and awareness of the need for sun protective behaviours is promoted through the curriculum, particularly in the Health and Physical Education and Science programmes.
- Sporting events are scheduled to reduce sun exposure (preferably outside the hours of 10 am and 3 pm) and/or at sporting venues provision is to be made for access to shade.
- Sun protection be considered in managing the working conditions of outdoor workers and grounds staff.
- All students must have a broad brimmed hat (the Panama) of school design and are required to wear this during recess and lunch breaks.
- Hats must be worn for outdoor activities such as Health and Physical Education lessons, playtimes, camps, excursions – the policy is 'No Hat, No play'.

- Students should apply sun screen SPF 50+ before an outdoor activity or swimming lesson (sunscreen SPF 50+ is to be made available).
- As role models, staff are expected to wear hats or use umbrellas when outside e.g. on playground duty.
- All students during break times on normal school days, whether they are sitting in the shade or not, must be wearing their panama hats. If students do not wear their hats they will be given a red slip for a uniform infringement and be moved indoors by the teacher on duty.
- This policy and sun protection action will be monitored and reviewed biannually by the Deputy Principal.

**Review Date: February 2023**