



SUNSMART POLICY

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2. Vision Statement

Guided by our Catholic Identity, St Brigid's College ensures high levels of learning and success for all.

3. Rationale

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. It is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practicing sun protection in early childhood and adolescence. This SunSmart Policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending St Brigid's College are protected from over-exposure to the harmful UV radiation from the sun. It documents our comprehensive sun protection practices. These practices will be applied to all school activities including sports carnivals, excursions and camps. The policy is to be implemented throughout the year, but with a particular emphasis during Terms 1 and 4.

4. Scope

This policy applies primarily to the staff and students of St Brigid's College, but extends to all members of the College Community

5. Objectives

The goals of the SunSmart policy are to:

1. Increase student and community awareness of skin cancer.
2. Assist students to develop strategies that encourage responsible decision making about skin protection.
3. Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students and staff.
4. Encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high risk times such as lunch times, sports, excursions and camps.
5. Ensure that parents are informed of the school's SunSmart policy.

6. Policy Statement

Curriculum

1. Sun protection and skin cancer awareness programs are incorporated into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the school curriculum.

Uniforms/clothing

1. Students are to wear School approved hats when outside during lunch and recess breaks for Terms 1 and 4, and particularly for organized outdoor activities such as sports carnivals.
2. Staff are to wear hats when performing Yard Duty during Term 1 & 4.
3. Parents are encouraged to wear hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

Sunscreen use

1. Students and staff are encouraged to apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen regularly e.g. prior to school, before lunch, PE lessons, sport, excursions, etc.

Sport and Physical Education.

1. Hat wearing is compulsory, where practical, for sport and physical education.
2. Sports uniform items are sun protective e.g. shirts with collars.
3. The use of indoor and shade facilities will be maximised.
4. Where possible outdoor lessons and sports carnivals will be scheduled outside the peak UV radiation times of 11am—3pm(during daylight savings time).

Camps and Excursions

1. School approved hats, sun protective clothing and sunscreen are required for all camps and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.

Shade

1. The school is working towards increasing and/or maintaining shade in its grounds, particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. lunch, canteen, outdoor lesson areas.
2. Temporary shade structures will be considered as a short-term measure.
3. Students and staff are actively encouraged to use shade.

Occupational Health and Safety

1. Consideration is given to sun protection for all teachers/staff involved in outdoor activities, including yard duty. Physical education and sport education teachers are required to take appropriate sun protection measures as they are particularly at risk from UV radiation.

Reinforcement/promotion of SunSmart message

1. Students will be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.
2. Sun protection will be promoted throughout the year via the school newsletter, assemblies, daily messages, parent and staff meetings and whole school activities.

7. Responsibilities

This policy will be monitored by the Student Wellbeing Team who will ensure:

1. All new staff are briefed on the SunSmart policy.
2. The SunSmart policy is included in the school handbook each year.
3. SunSmart practices are promoted regularly from the beginning of Term 1 and 4.
4. The Cancer Council of Victoria is contacted annually to ensure that up-to-date information is maintained on SunSmart resources and policy guidelines.

8. Legal References

Federal and relevant State laws bind the School and its employees. A breach of this policy may result in the School and/or its employees breaching any one of the following pieces of legislation:

Commonwealth

Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Cth)
Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)

Victoria

Child Safe Standards (Ministerial Order 870)
Note: This is not an exhaustive list of the relevant legislation.

9. Related Policies

Child safety Policy
First Aid policy

OH&S Policy
Pastoral care Policy

10. Document Review

The Student Wellbeing Team in collaboration with the staff will review the effectiveness of this policy. They will:

1. Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents and visiting guests.
2. Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations.
3. Check plans for future buildings and grounds with regards to shade provision (in consultation with the Business Manager and the School Executive).
4. Evaluate and update the sun protection and skin cancer prevention component of the curriculum.

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