



Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School

SunSmart Procedures

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Two out of every three Queenslanders will develop some sort of skin cancer in their lifetime. Research suggests that at least two-thirds of all melanomas occurring in Australia could be prevented if children were protected from the sun during their first 15 years.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows that severe sunburn contributes to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.

Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are highest during the hours that children are at school.

Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School acknowledges the need to have procedures in place to protect children's skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

The school will:

- encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- ensure that all students and staff wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears, and SPF 30+ or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities
- ensure students without adequate sun protection use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times
- ensure that when attending sporting events and camps, students are to only remove hats under the direction of a teacher for the brief time the activity is conducted.
- increase the amount of shade in the school grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees
- inform parents of the Safety Policy when they enrol their child
- include the SunSmart Procedures in the Parent Handbook
- incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum