Holy Name Primary School

Sun Smart Policy

Rationale
Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. 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.

Policy Statement
Holy Name Primary School is mindful of the need to protect children’s skin and to educate them about Sun Smart behaviour. Therefore we aim to reduce the risk of skin cancer through exposure to the sun. The implementation of this policy will be conducted throughout the year thus ensuring that all children attending our school are protected from the harmful effects of the sun.

Consequences
Through the implementation of this policy Holy Name Primary School will:
* provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection.
* provide environments that support Sun Smart practices.
* create an awareness of the need to reschedule work commitments and outdoor activities to support Sun Smart practices.

Procedures
Holy Name Primary School will endeavour to:
Inform parents of the Sun Smart policy when they enrol their child
Include the Sun Smart policy statement in the school prospectus
Increase the amount of shade in the school grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees
Incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum
Encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of Sun Smart behaviour
Seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the Sun Smart policy and its implementation, through newsletters, parent meetings, etc.
Ensure that all students and staff wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears, and SPF 30+ broad-Spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities
Encourage students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times
Review the school dress code to conform to the Queensland Cancer Fund Sun Smart clothing guidelines
Ensure that, wherever practicable, outdoor activities take place before 10 a.m. or after 3 p.m.
Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events
Review the Sun Smart policy annually
Endeavour to have all swimming lessons and carnivals in indoor pools.

Expectations
Parents/Carers will endeavour to:
- Provide a Sun Smart hat for their child and ensure that they wear it to and from school. The Queensland Cancer Fund recommends the following hat that is part of Holy Name’s uniform: 8-10cm broad-brimmed
- Ensure that their child applies SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school
- Act as positive role models by practising Sun Smart behaviour
- Support the school’s Sun Smart policy and help to design and regularly update the policy
Students will:
- Be aware of the school’s Sun Smart policy
- Take responsibility for their own health and safety by being Sun Smart
- Comply with Sun Smart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats, clothing, sunscreen and sunglasses
- Apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of Sun Smart behaviour
- Help to design and regularly update the Sun Smart policy
- Participate in Sun Smart education programs

Date of Issue 22/11/2014

Mr Richard Landers
Holy Name Catholic School
Chairperson

Date of Review 2019

Mrs Kathy Bliss
Holy Name Catholic School
Principal