Purpose
The purpose of the policy is to ensure all schools promote and practise sun smart procedures.

St Mary’s School can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths by encouraging all members of the school community to take effective skin-protection measures.

Policy
The aims of the Sun Sense Policy are to promote among students, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths.
- Personal responsibility for and decision-making about skin protection.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in schools to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

Definitions
Nil

Procedures
1. AS PART OF GENERAL SKIN-PROTECTION STRATEGIES:

1.1 As part of the normal Health curriculum students will be taught the principles of sun protection.

1.2. Children will wear school hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside e.g. sport, sports carnivals, outdoor excursions and activities.

1.3 Children who do not have their hats with them will play in an area protected from the sun such as the hall or under the shade sail.

1.4 Children will be encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor play activities.

1.5 Outdoor activities will be held in areas of shade whenever possible.

1.6 Teachers will schedule outdoor activities before 10am and after 2pm (11am and 3pm daylight saving time) whenever possible.

1.7 Staff will be encouraged to act as role models by practising sensible sun behaviour. They will be expected to wear protective hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activities, use a SPF 15+, broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen for skin protection and seek shade whenever possible.
2. OUR SCHOOL WILL:

2.1 In determining school uniform, school boards will ensure uniforms are sun smart and ensure that school hats are appropriate and satisfy Cancer Council guidelines.

2.2 Ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.

2.3 As part of the School Registration and Review process schools to carry out an audit of the school plant ensuring adequate shade and shelter for students, staff and parents.

2.4 Provide SPF 15+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student use when it is not provided by the parents.

2.5 Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention in its curriculum.

2.6 Reinforce regularly this Sun Smart Policy in a positive way through newsletters, during assemblies, parent meetings, and student/teacher activities.

2.7 Reinforce the Sun Smart Policy on out of uniform days. Children would be required to wear appropriate clothing that would protect them from ultra violet rays. For example, children should wear t-shirts with sleeves and collars, and hats with a brim.

2.8 Ensure that children wear appropriate Sun Smart clothing to sporting events such as swimming and athletic carnivals. For example, children wear rash shirts and protective hats at the swimming carnival.

3. WHEN ENROLLING A CHILD, PARENTS WILL BE:

3.1 Informed of the Sun Smart Policy.

3.2 Requested to purchase and label a school had for their child’s use.

3.3 Encouraged to provide SPF 15+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for their child’s use.

3.4 Encouraged to practise skin-protective behaviour themselves.

References

Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn, Catholic Education Office

Cancer Council

NSW Board Of Studies PDHPE Documents