



MacKillop Catholic Primary School Mackay SunSmart Policy

Approved: March 2023 | For Review March 2025

Policy Statement

MacKillop Catholic Primary School seeks to promote a safe, healthy working and learning environment through the awareness and implementation of appropriate sun safety strategies and practices.

Description

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancers account for 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia, making it the most common type of cancer.

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

Given students and employees are at school during peak UV times, schools play a major role in providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term SunSmart behaviour.

This policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;

- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support duty of care requirements; and
- support appropriate WH&S strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

Implementation Issues

1. ***Slip on sun-protective Clothing*** – Students are required to wear the sun-safe school uniform when at school which includes shirts with collars and sleeves.
2. Students are required to wear swim shirts/rash vests during all water-based activities at outdoor venues, except when racing.
3. On designated non-uniform days the children are required to wear sun-safe clothing and a school hat.
4. ***Slap on a hat*** – Students are required to wear their broad-brimmed hat when they are outside in order to participate in physical education and sporting activities. Teachers will also implement the school's "NO SCHOOL HAT, NO PLAY" rule when doing playground supervision.
5. ***Slop on sunscreen*** - SPF 30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen will be made available in each classroom for staff and students' use. Children and staff are encouraged to apply sunscreen 20 mins before engaging in outdoor activities and play.
6. ***Slide on sunglasses*** - Should sunglasses be required it is recommended that they comply with the '*Australian Standard AS1067*' and are close fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that cover as much of the eye as possible. The sunglasses must be of a 'fully-framed' style of a suitable colouring (Eg. not overly-'loud') and should not have mirrored lenses.
7. ***Seek Shade*** – Outdoor activities should be minimized between 10.00am – 3.00pm where possible. The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities. Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside. Shade provisions are considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
8. Staff will take advantage of shaded areas in the school/ grounds whenever possible when undertaking outdoor activities (e.g. making use of the 'Covered Area' and portable shade structures when suitable to an activity).
9. Attention should be given to the timing of Swimming and Athletics Carnivals each year.
 - a. **Swimming/Athletics Carnival:** At these times teachers and parents should be particularly mindful of wearing hats and applying sunscreen and all available shade structures will be used.

10. Staff and parents should be aware of the importance of role modelling appropriate sun safety behaviours for children. Staff are required to wear a hat when on Supervision duty or when working in outdoor areas.
11. Staff will reinforce sun-safe messages to students, including learning activities that promote sun protection.
12. Sun safe behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the school community through newsletters, staff meetings, school assemblies, playground duties and student and teacher activities.

Reflection Material

Reflection Material:

“Schools and Early Childhood Sun Protection” Policy Guide - Cancer Council Queensland: <http://www.cancer.org.au>

Website: SunSmart Education Resources –
<https://www.sunsmart.com.au/advice-for/schools-early-childhood/education-resources>

Cancer Council Queensland: Policy Guide – Schools and Early Childhood Sun Protection