



Policy

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure Our Lady of Dolours School fosters a safe, sun-aware learning environment that supports the wellbeing of students, staff, and visitors by reducing exposure to harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation during outdoor school activities.

1.2 This policy applies to all employees, contractors, volunteers, students, and visitors engaging in activities under the care or management of Our Lady of Dolours School.

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Skin cancer is one of the most preventable yet prevalent cancers in Australia, with evidence showing that UV exposure during childhood significantly increases lifetime risk. According to the *National Evaluation of Australian Primary Schools' Sun Protection Policy and Practices – Queensland Brief Report (Cancer Council, 2023)*, schools play a critical role in reducing UV-related harm through consistent policy implementation and sun protection education.

2.2 In response, Our Lady of Dolours School will:

2.2.1 Promote and model consistent SunSmart behaviours across all staff and students in alignment with national and BCE standards.

2.2.2 Ensure the provision of adequate shade through natural and built infrastructure in key play and outdoor learning areas.

2.2.3 Require all students and staff to wear sun-protective hats and clothing for all outdoor activities.

2.2.4 Encourage the daily use of SPF50+, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before and during exposure to the sun.

2.2.5 Adjust the scheduling of outdoor activities, where practicable, to minimise exposure during peak UV times (10am–2pm AEST).

2.3 Our Lady of Dolours School further commits to:

2.3.1 Embedding sun safety education into the Health curriculum and across relevant learning areas.

2.3.2 Communicating clear expectations to parents/carers about sun protection responsibilities, including hat and clothing requirements.

2.3.3 Requiring sun-protective swimwear (e.g., rash shirts) for water-based activities.

2.3.4 Monitoring compliance and supporting student participation through positive reinforcement strategies.



2.4 This policy supports a whole-school approach to sun safety, promoting independent student responsibility and family engagement in accordance with BCE's commitment to student health, safety and wellbeing.

3. Associated Documents

3.1 BCE Student Wellbeing Policy

3.2 BCE Health and Safety Policy

3.3 *National Evaluation of Australian Primary Schools' Sun Protection Policy and Practices – Queensland Brief Report* (Cancer Council, 2023)

3.4 Cancer Council Queensland – SunSmart Schools Program

3.5 ARPANSA – UV Radiation Protection Guidelines

3.6 Our Lady of Dolours Uniform Guidelines

Document Control

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