

SECTION	PASTOROL CARE
CODE	PAC06
STATEMENT NAME	SUN SMART POLICY
ADOPTED	May 1999
LAST AMENDED	February 2019



PREAMBLE

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Young people, living in country areas are even more at risk than those living in the cities. It is estimated that more than 75% of all skin cancers could be prevented by practising sun protection in early childhood and adolescence.

This Sun Smart Policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending Marist-Sion College are protected from over-exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. This policy documents our sun protection practices in the areas of behaviour, curriculum and environment. These practices will be applied to all school activities including sports carnivals, excursions and camps.

POLICY

The goals of the Sun Smart Policy are to:

- Increase student and community awareness of skin cancer;
- Assist students to develop strategies which encourage responsible decision making about skin protection;
- Work towards a safe school environment which provides shade for students and staff;
- Encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high risk times such as lunchtimes, sports, excursions and camps; and
- Ensure that parents are informed of the school's Sun Smart Policy.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

Behaviour

All students and staff will be encouraged to:

- wear a hat, which shades the face, neck and ears, during morning and afternoon breaks and during sporting and other high risk activities;
- wear clothing with sleeves and collars that is made from a closely woven fibre;
- apply at least SPF 30 broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen before all outdoor activity and re-apply every two hours; and
- slide on sunglasses if practical. It is preferable that the sunglasses are labelled AS1067 and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

School Organisation

The College uniform includes a Sun Smart hat as a compulsory part of the school uniform.

Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen at home; sunscreen is available in the Sick Bay.

Hats must be worn from September through to April:

- During breaks:
 - **The hat is to be carried by all students**
(after going to lockers from class, and until they go to lockers after the warning bell); and
 - **The hat is to be worn by students during breaks when they are in the sun**
- During all Sport and Physical Education classes; and
- At any other time when students are likely to be exposed to ultra-violet rays for prolonged periods, such as when outdoors on excursions/camps etc.

Assemblies – All assemblies are preferably held indoors. Where an assembly needs to be outdoors, students will be instructed to wear hats unless it is held in the early morning or in shade.

Physical Education and Sport Classes – All students are to be protected from the sun during outdoor physical education and sport classes. The use of indoor and shade facilities is to be maximised where possible.

Camps and Excursions – Suitable hats, clothing and sunscreen should be required for all camps and excursions. These items will be listed on the parent permission form.

Occupational Health and Safety – All staff involved in outdoor activities, including yard duty, should consider their need for sun protection. All staff who are exposed to the sun for extended times during school activities are to take appropriate sun protection measures, including wearing wide brimmed hats and using sunscreen. This is particularly important for Physical Education and Sport Education teachers and other outdoor staff, due to their frequent and extended exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Adult Role Models – Members of staff are to wear suitable hats whilst involved in outdoor activities and yard supervision, to model Sun Smart practices to students.

Curriculum

- Sun protection and skin cancer programs are incorporated into the Health curriculum.
- Staff encourage students to support initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.
- The Deputy Principal: Pastoral Care promotes sun protection via Emmaus, assemblies, daily messages, parent and staff meetings and whole school activities.
- The Deputy Principal: Pastoral Care encourages students to download the Sun Smart iPhone application and to refer to the Sun Smart information on SIMON.

Environment

- Ensure that there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students.
- Arrange for some temporary shade structures as a short term measure for all day carnivals such as athletics and swimming carnivals.
- Plan and budget for shade in high risk areas such as canteens and assembly points.

This policy will be monitored by the College Leadership Team who will see that:

- All incoming staff are briefed on the Sun Smart Policy;
- The Sun Smart Policy is brought to the attention of staff in September and January each year;
- The Sun Smart Policy is included in the Electronic Handbook, on SharePoint;
- Sun Smart practices are promoted regularly from September through to April; and
- The Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria is contacted annually to ensure that up-to-date information is maintained on Sun Smart resources and policy guidelines.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

The College Leadership Team in collaboration with the Student Representative Council will review the effectiveness of this policy each year. They will:

- Review the Sun Smart behaviour of students, staff, parents and guests visiting the school;
- Assess the provision of shade in the school;
- Assess the use of shade by students and staff;
- Check plans for future buildings and grounds with regards to shade provision (in consultation with the Business Manager); and
- Evaluate and update the Sun Smart protection and skin cancer prevention component of the curriculum (in collaboration with the Health and Physical Education staff).