



SUNSMART POLICY STATEMENT

Rationale

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Two out of every three Queenslanders will develop some sort of skin cancer in their lifetime. 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 students are at school.

With this in mind Trinity College realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

Aims

The policy aims to:

- provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection.
- provide environments that support SunSmart practices.
- create an awareness of the need to reschedule work commitments and outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices.

PROCEDURES

Our college recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. The implementation of this policy will therefore be conducted throughout the year.

The purpose of the SunSmart policy is to ensure that all children attending our school are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

Our commitment

Trinity College will:

- inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their child
- include the SunSmart policy statement in the college prospectus
- increase the amount of shade in the college grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees
- incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum, under the guidance of the Year Level Coordinators
- encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- seek ongoing support from parents and the college community for the SunSmart 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 15 or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities
- monitor and enforce compulsory school rule requiring the wearing of the College Formal hat at all times, and the bucket hat or sports cap during sport and sporting events
- provide complementary sunscreen to all staff and students through the Health & Physical Education Department

- encourage students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times
- review the school uniform to conform with the Queensland Cancer Fund SunSmart clothing guidelines
- ensure that, wherever practicable, outdoor activities take place before 10am or after 2pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time [AEST])
- ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events
- encourage the wearing of sunglasses for outdoor lessons
- review the SunSmart policy annually.

Our expectations

Students will:

- be aware of the school's SunSmart policy
- use shaded or covered areas, where possible, for outdoor activities
- take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart
- comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats, clothing, sunscreen and sunglasses
- act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- help to design and regularly update the SunSmart policy
- participate in initiatives to protect the college population from excessive exposure to the sun

Source: Queensland Cancer Fund (1997) *Working towards a SunSmart Queensland: a policy guide for organisations*