



Related Policies

Occupational Health and Safety

Purpose

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. The higher altitude and clear air of Canberra contributes to higher UV levels than for most other populated areas of Australia. The purpose of this policy is to ensure St Thomas Aquinas Primary School promotes and practices sun smart procedures.

This policy explains the steps to be taken to ensure the safety of children and staff as this relates to protection from solar ultraviolet rays. It is based on a recognition that exposure to these rays can cause health problems. The policy has particular relevance during terms one and four, but is applicable throughout the year. It recognises Canberra as a location where, because of our atmospheric conditions, special precautions need to be enforced.

Definitions

Nil

Policy

To minimise this risk, as well as help educate the school community about this risk, St Thomas Aquinas has undertaken the following initiatives:

1. Students will wear hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside e.g. sport, sports carnivals, outdoor excursions and activities except in the months of June & July.
2. Teachers are to enforce the rule “No hat, no play” at all times except in the months of June & July.
3. Students are encouraged to make use of outdoor shaded areas.
4. Outdoor time is *minimised* when possible between 10am to 2pm (11am to 3pm during daylight saving) time frame.
5. The school encourages and supports parents to provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant roll-on sun screen for children to apply prior to recess and lunch breaks.
6. The school will incorporate programs on sun protection in the curriculum of all classes.
7. In excessive weather conditions, alterations will be made to the timetable to reduce risks associated with sun rays.



1. Procedures

2. The following strategies are in place to ensure that all students attending St Thomas Aquinas are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
 1. Students will wear polo shirts with a collar and sleeves at all times including out of uniform days.
 2. All students will wear a broad brimmed hat or bucket style hat that has a deep crown and brim of at least 6cm all other months excluding June and July. Parents are informed via newsletter and email when hats are required to be worn.
 3. Parents will be encouraged to apply sun screen to their child before they come to school in the morning.
 4. Students not wearing hats will be restricted to supervised shade areas and the 'No hat - no play' rule will be enforced.
 5. Teachers are to promote and practise positive attitudes towards practices that ensure skin protection in line with OH&S responsibilities and Duty of Care.
 6. Students will be encouraged to use shaded areas when outdoors.
 7. Outdoor activities will be held in areas of shade where possible.
 8. Teachers will minimise outdoor activities between 10am – 2pm. (11am to 3pm during daylight saving) timeframe.
 9. Staff will also wear a hat and protective clothing when outdoors and seek shade whenever possible.
 10. Students will be encouraged to apply their personal roll on sunscreen before recess and lunch.
 11. Shade will always be considered when organising outdoor activities, such as excursions, camps and sporting carnivals.
 12. Hats will be worn for all sporting activities during August to May.
 13. SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant Sun Screen is provided for staff use and is located in the staffroom.
 14. SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant Sun Screen is provided for all students to use on special sporting days e.g. Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals.



References

- SunSmart Policy Guidelines for Primary Schools, ACT Cancer Society.
- Student Safety in Schools: Policy Guidelines, NSW CEC.
- www.cancercouncil.com.au
- http://www.sunsmart.com.au/sun_protection/slop

Forms

Nil

Approved By:	Leadership Team
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Contact Officer:	St Thomas Aquinas Principal