



SUNSAFE POLICY

Issued	July 2026	Replaces	March 2024	Revision due	March 2029
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STATEMENT OF POLICY

Ryan Catholic College is committed to providing a safe environment that minimises UV exposure and encourages responsible sun safety practices. This policy aims to protect all students and staff from the harmful effects of sun exposure, while promoting positive sun protection behaviours that will last a lifetime.

RATIONALE

North Queensland experiences high levels of ultraviolet (UV) radiation throughout the year. Excessive exposure to UV radiation is the primary cause of skin cancer and can also cause eye damage at the levels (UV >3) consistently seen in Townsville.

Research shows sun exposure during childhood significantly increases skin cancer risk later in life.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

This policy ultimately aims to reduce student and staff UV exposure through:

- Increased awareness of sun safety practices in a manner that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention.
- Promotion of lifelong sun protection habits.
- Providing appropriate shade and protective measures to ensure outdoor activities can be conducted safely.

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

1. Clothing (including hats): Ensure all staff and students take preventative measures:
 - a. Use of a sun-safe College hat.
 - b. Clothing appropriate to sun exposure.
 - i. Sun-safe options for all uniforms available at the uniform shop.
 - ii. Representative sporting uniforms to consider sun safety, in addition to consideration of heat management and sport-specific requirements.
 - c. Students may wear sunglasses.



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2. Sunscreen

- a. The school encourages use of SPF50+ sunscreen.
- b. Sunscreen to be available and encouraged to be applied.

3. Shade

- a. Provide adequate shade or covered areas.
- b. Ensure students without adequate sun protection are directed to use shaded or covered areas for recess, lunchtime and all outdoor activities.

4. Scheduling of outdoor activities.

- a. Create an awareness of the need to schedule outdoor activities to support sun-safe activities where possible.

5. Curriculum

Provide ongoing age-appropriate education, through multiple aspects of the curriculum and across year levels, that encompasses UV risks and how to check UV ratings, protective behaviours, promotion of personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and the importance of early detection.

6. Role modelling

Expect that all staff members will act as positive role models of sun-safe behaviours.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Ryan Catholic College:

- Support the implementation of this policy.
- Provide resources where possible, and inform parents of new students of the policy.
- Promote SunSmart practices.

Staff:

- Be positive role models in sun protective behaviours.
- Be involved in the implementation and enforcement of SunSmart procedures.

Students:

- Demonstrate personal responsibility for sun protective behaviours in an age-appropriate manner and follow all directions of staff in relation to sun safety.
- Follow the uniform requirements set out in the policy and related procedures.



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IMPLEMENTATION

This policy applies to school hours, school sporting activities, activities where a child is representing the school, excursions, camps and outdoor events.

RESOURCES

- [SunSmart Website](#)
- [Cancer Council Website](#)

REVISION HISTORY

- [March 2024](#)
- [October 2023](#)
- September 2020