

SunSmart Policy

<i>Issued</i>	<i>September 2020</i>	<i>Replaces</i>	<i>September 2016</i>	<i>Revision due</i>	<i>July 2023</i>
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STATEMENT OF POLICY

Ryan Catholic College is committed to protecting students from the harmful effects of the sun. We realise the need to protect children's skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour.

RATIONALE

Skin damage, including skin cancer, can be the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.

“Ultraviolet (UV) radiation damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70. Skin cancer is one of the most preventable cancers. Students are in school when daily ultraviolet (UV) radiation levels are at their peak, meaning schools are uniquely placed to educate about sun protection behaviour, minimise UVR exposure and ultimately reduce a student's lifetime risk of skin cancer”.

(Cancer Council Australia; *National SunSmart Schools Program, 2019*).

POLICY DIRECTIVE

Ryan Catholic College will:

1. provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection;
2. provide environments that support SunSmart practices;
3. ensure all students and staff take preventative measures e.g. use of SunSmart College hat, SPF 50+ sunscreen and clothing appropriate to the outdoor activity;
4. ensure students without adequate sun protection to be directed to use shaded or covered areas at recess, lunch times and all outdoor activities;
5. create an awareness of the need to reschedule outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices, where possible;
6. inform parents of the College's SunSmart policy when they enrol their child;
7. expect all staff to act as positive role models of SunSmart behaviour.
8. seek ongoing support from parents and the College community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation; and
9. review the College dress code and any future College developments to conform to the Cancer Council Queensland SunSmart policy.