



St John's Catholic College - Sun Safety Policy

1. Purpose

St John's Catholic College is committed to providing a safe learning environment by reducing the risk of harm caused by exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation and hot weather conditions. This policy promotes consistent sun-safe practices among students, staff, families, and visitors in line with Northern Territory sun safety expectations.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, contractors, volunteers, and visitors when on school grounds or participating in any school-organised activity, including excursions, sport, camps, and events.

3. Sun Safety Requirements

3.1 Student School Hat Requirement

- To ensure consistent and visible sun-safe practices only the approved College hat, school cap, bucket hat or broad brimmed straw hat, is permitted.
- Hats must be worn:
 - during all outdoor lessons
 - during sport and outdoor activities (with the exception of competition football)
 - during break times when students are outside
- Students without a hat are required to stay in a designated shaded area.
- Staff are expected to role model sun-safe behaviour by always wearing a hat outdoors.

3.2 Sunscreen

- SPF30+ or higher, broad-spectrum sunscreen is recommended.
- Sunscreen is available for students and staff at the kiosk next to the canteen.
- Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen before going outdoors and reapply as needed.
- Parents/carers should advise the school of any sunscreen allergies.

3.3 Clothing and Swimming Activities

- Students should wear sun-protective clothing where practical.
- For swimming lessons and aquatic carnivals, wearing a shirt or rashie is encouraged (but not mandatory).
- Staff should model sun-safe clothing choices during outdoor activities.

3.4 Shade Usage

- Shade structures and natural shade are provided around the College.
- Students and staff are encouraged to use shaded areas whenever practical, especially during peak UV times.

4. Hydration and Heat Safety

4.1 Water Consumption

- Students and staff are encouraged to carry a water bottle throughout the day.
- Drinking regularly from bubblers and water stations is strongly encouraged, particularly during hot weather and physical activity.
- Staff should remind students to drink water before, during, and after outdoor activities.

- Staff should schedule regular drink breaks during sustained, outdoor physical activities.

4.2 Hot Weather Considerations

- Teachers and activity organisers should adjust outdoor activities according to heat conditions.
- During extreme heat, outdoor sessions may be shortened, rescheduled, moved to shade, or relocated indoors.
- Staff must monitor students for signs of heat stress and take appropriate action if concerns arise.

5. Teaching and Learning

- Sun safety education will be included in relevant curriculum areas such as Health and Physical Education.
- Sun-safe messages will be reinforced through school events, assemblies, newsletters, and signage.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

School Leadership Team:

- Ensures this policy is implemented and communicated to the school community.
- Ensures staff model and enforce sun-safe behaviour.

Staff:

- Wear a hat and follow sun-safe practices during all outdoor activities.
- Encourage and remind students to wear hats, use shade, apply sunscreen, and stay hydrated.
- Enforce policy elements where students are in breach of the policy.
- Modify outdoor activities in hot weather when necessary.

Students:

- Wear the approved College hat whenever outdoors.
- Take responsibility for sun-safe behaviour, including using shade and drinking water regularly.
- Use sunscreen and follow instructions from staff regarding sun protection.

Families:

- Support the College's sun safety expectations.
- Ensure students bring the correct hat and support sunscreen use.

Policy to be implemented from the beginning of the 2026 Academic Year. Policy to be reviewed in 2028.



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