



MIAMI STATE SCHOOL

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Growing with Knowledge

VISION I We are an empowered learning community, striving for excellence.

Miami State School's SunSmart Policy

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. Given that students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, schools play a major role in both minimising student's UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour.

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 aging. Most skin damage is therefore preventable. With this in mind Miami state School 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.

Our Commitment:

Miami State School will:

- inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their child
- include the SunSmart policy statement in the school prospectus
- incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum
- seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation, through newsletters, parent meetings, classroom activities and other communication opportunities

Our Expectations:

Parents/Carers will:

- provide the school uniform SunSmart hat for their child and ensure that they wear it to and from school
- Ensure that their child applies SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school in circumstances where appropriate
- Support the school's SunSmart policy and help design and regularly update the policy

Students will:

- be aware of the school's SunSmart policy
- take responsibility for their own health safety by being SunSmart
- comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats, clothing and sunscreen where appropriate
- apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors
- use shaded or covered areas outdoors
- act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- participate in SunSmart education programs

Staff will:

- actively model wearing broad-brimmed hats while on duty and on outside activities
- have available SPF30+ sunscreen for students and staff use
- act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- help design and regularly update the SunSmart policy
- incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention and sun safety into the curriculum and all grade levels
- ensure the SunSmart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (e.g.camps, excursions and sporting events)



Evaluation

Miami State School staff and P&C will review the effectiveness of this policy each year. They will

- review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents and visitors and make recommendations for improvement
 - assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision
 - update and promote curriculum material relevant to SunSmart activities

Conclusion

By implementing this policy the school is ensuring that students' potential risk of damage by the harsh Queensland sun is minimised.

