SUNSMART POLICY STATEMENT

Rational

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.

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 ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.

Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are highest during the hours that students are at school.

With this in mind St Francis College 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.

Aims

The policy aims to:
- provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection.
- provide environments that support SunSmart practices.
- create an awareness of the need to schedule outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices.

Procedures

Our college recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. The implementation of this policy will therefore be conducted throughout the year. The purpose of the SunSmart policy is to ensure that all children attending our school are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

Our Commitment

St Francis College will:
- inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their child
- include the SunSmart policy statement in the college documentation
- continue to develop the amount of shade provided for students in the college grounds
- incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum
- encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- seek ongoing support from parents and the college community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation
- continuously encourage all students and staff to wear sun protection when involved in outdoor activities
- encourage students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times
- ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events