



# Holy Eucharist Catholic Primary School St Albans South.



## SUNSMART POLICY

### **Holy Eucharist Catholic Primary School Commitment Statement to Child Safety**

*A safe and nurturing culture for all children and young people at our Catholic school*

The moral focus embedded in Catholic school culture, to uphold the dignity of each person and to strive for the full flourishing of each student, obliges Catholic schools to establish and continually improve the culture of child safety throughout all levels of the organisation. Preventing child abuse and responding appropriately to allegations and concerns needs to be embedded in the everyday thinking and practice of all within the school community.

*Every person involved in Catholic education has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make. Therefore, Holy Eucharist School has in place policies, processes and practices ensuring child safety is key within its culture and that these represent best practice. (Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd 2016/Holy Eucharist School Commitment Statement).*

At Holy Eucharist School we are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and volunteers. As part of this commitment we have implemented the Victorian Child Safe Standards to help protect children and young people under the age of 18 from child abuse and neglect, including cultural safety for Indigenous children and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability.

### **Rationale:**

A healthy Ultraviolet (UV) exposure balance helps with Vitamin D and minimises skin cancer risk. Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk and can lead to skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school.

### **Aims:**

- To educate students as to suitable SunSmart protection strategies.
- To encourage children and teachers to get some sun exposure for Vitamin D and protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.

### **Implementation:**

Staff and students are encouraged to access the daily sun protection times at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) or on the free SunSmart app to assist with the implementation of this policy.

A combination of sun protection measures are used for all outdoor activities from September to the end of April and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above.

- This policy is to be read in conjunction with Holy Eucharist School's Uniform Policy which includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves and longer style dresses.
- Children will be required to wear the Holy Eucharist school hat which protects the face and neck as recommended by the Anti - Cancer Council from during Term 1 and Term 4, whenever they are outside.
- Staff will act as role models by also wearing hats when outside.
- Our school rule is: "No hat, No play". Children without the approved hats will be required to spend their recess and lunch in the designated shelter area between the two buildings.
- Children will be actively encouraged to wear a broad - spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Sunscreen will be provided in the First Aid room, and on excursions. Sunscreen will be applied by students according to the manufacturer's directions, under the supervision of teachers.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors. (Teacher reminders and sunscreen monitors).
- Whenever possible, outside activities on hot days should be scheduled before 11:00 am.
- In all weather conditions students will be encouraged and supported to:
  - Play in shaded areas
  - Remain hydrated by accessing the drinking taps throughout the school day and by allowing students to have their personal water bottles with them in their classrooms.
- In the event of the Principal determining that the temperature at school has exceeded/will exceed 36 degrees the following additional measures will be taken:
  - Students will be supervised in classrooms during recess and lunch breaks (Teachers will follow the 'Hot Day' Program/Timetable).
  - Teachers will proactively seek to provide regular additional breaks for students to access their water bottles and drinking taps during the school day.
- The school will provide adequate shade structures for students as practicable; particularly over high density play areas such play equipment.
- The Uniform Shop staff will ensure that school hats are available for purchase from the Uniform Shop.
- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to highlight and reinforce the SunSmart policy.
- SunSmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.
- Our school has membership as a SunSmart school from the Cancer Council of Victoria.

#### **Physical Education (PE) Classes**

When the temperature exceeds 30 degrees PE teachers may determine to teach inside or in an appropriately shaded area.

#### **Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's policy review process.

#### **Legislation and Standards**

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006: Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

#### **Relevant documents / links**

- The Compact: Roles and Responsibilities in Victorian government school education: Principle 3 (2012)
- DEECD School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV protection (2011)
- DEECD Health, Safety & WorkCover
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (V EYLDF)
- Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas (Oct 2011)
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools - Government Response
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight (2008)
- AS 4685.1: 2014 Playground equipment and surfacing – General safety requirements and test methods.

**Ratified:**

- December 2017.