



NORTHPINE
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Sun Protection Policy

Date Last Reviewed: March 2013



RATIONALE

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Over-exposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. As students are at school during times of peak ultraviolet (UV) radiation, schools can play a major role in creating a supportive environment that minimises exposure and encourages sun-protective behaviours.

AIMS

Our Sun Protection Policy aims to ensure that all students of Northpine Christian College are protected from skin damage caused by UV radiation from the sun. The sun-protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all school activities, sports carnivals, excursions and camps.

GUIDELINES

The Sun Smart Policy exists alongside of the College Uniform Policy. The practices within the College seek to ensure that all students have a clear understanding of their responsibility in relation to the wearing of hats, the use of sunscreen, the wearing of sensible clothing and the use of shaded areas within the College.

- Inform parents of this Sun Protection Policy when they enrol their child/children at the College.
- Promote sun protection via newsletters, assemblies, daily messages, whole-school activities, and parent meetings.
- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer prevention programs into the appropriate Key Learning Areas of the curriculum.
- Students are required to wear a Northpine Christian College hat for all outdoor activity while in the sun, including recess and lunchtime activities. At times students maybe engaged in teacher organised sporting activities, such as teacher-led training sessions, vigorous PE class activity, lunchtime sport competitions, carnivals and Senior Sport on Wednesdays where at the teacher's discretion the student maybe given the option to wear a hat or apply sunscreen.
- Encourage students to use shaded or covered areas when outside.
- Encourage parents and guests to wear broad-brimmed hats when participating in, and attending outdoor school activities.
- Require students to wear a swim (*rash*) top for swimming in an outdoor setting (this may not be appropriate during competitive swimming).
- Ensure the continued provision of appropriate shade areas within the school grounds.
- Endeavour to provide adequate shade at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Sunscreen will be available for student use, provided there is no stated allergy on the medical form.
- Sunscreen will not be administered by teachers hence students will be required to apply their own sunscreen.
- Where it is not possible to schedule sports activities and carnivals outside the peak UV period between 10 am and 2 pm sun smart behaviour will be reinforced.
- The college will provide SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.



Expectations

Parents/Guardians will:

- Ensure that their child has a Northpine Christian College Hat.
- Be aware of the College's Sun Protection Policy and support the guidelines within it.

Students will:

- Be aware of the College's Sun Protection Policy.
- Take responsibility for their health by practising sun-protective behaviour.
- Comply with the College's Sun Protection Policy rules and guidelines by wearing the prescribed hat.
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of sun-protective behaviour.
- Be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.

Evaluation

- The Sun Protection Policy will be reviewed as part of the College's established review cycle.
The review process will include:
- Discussion with staff, parents and friends and the college council.
- Reviewing the sun-protective behaviour of students, staff, parents, and visitors, and making recommendations for improvement.
- Assessing shade provision and usage, and making recommendations for increases in shade provision.
- Updating and promoting curriculum material relevant to sun-protective behaviour and related activities.