



# CATHOLIC EDUCATION

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### **HOLY NAME EARLY LEARNING AND CARE SUN PROTECTION POLICY**

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

All enrolled children and employees attending our service shall be protected as far as practicable from skin damage caused by harmful ultra violet radiation (UVR) through the implementation of a mixture of personal and environmental strategies.

Staff, families and children will be encouraged as partners in the implementation of sun protection strategies. This partnership will be supported through the provision and display of educational materials and by incorporating sun protection messages into our program of activities.

Children, families and staff will be regularly reminded of the importance of sun protection.

#### **PROCEDURES**

A staff member from administration will check the Bureau of Meteorology UV index forecast each morning at <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/uv/index.shtml>. The UV Index will be displayed near the family sign in and out area.

#### **Shade**

Children will be supported to use the shaded areas for outdoors play activities.

Areas used for focused play such as sandpits and fixed play equipment will be provided with shade where possible throughout the year.

Outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas.

#### **Hats**

Children and educators are required to wear legionnaire style hats, bucket or broad brimmed hats that protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside including on an excursion. Visitors will also be encouraged to wear appropriate hats.

Children who do not have their hats with them will be required to play in an area protected from the sun.

#### **Clothing**

It is recommended that children and educators wear loose fitting clothing that protects as much of the skin as possible for outdoor activities. Shirts that cover the shoulders and have collars and sleeves in addition to longer style skirts and shorts are most suitable.

Children wearing tank tops, singlets or dresses with strappy shoulders will be required to play in an area protected from the sun.

Educators will be encouraged to wear sunglasses while outside however reflective sunglasses are not to be worn.

### **Sunscreen**

Parents who supply sunscreen, this sunscreen must be at least SPF50.

All children and educators will apply SPF 50 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.

Educators will ensure that sunscreen is reapplied to children and themselves every two hours or more frequently if it is washed or wiped off. Children will be encouraged and supervised to apply their own sun screen. Educators will provide assistance as required.

If a child demonstrates a skin reaction with the application of sunscreen alternative arrangements for sun protection will be planned with the child's family. A list of children with such allergies will be displayed near the sun cream station and on the allergies list. All staff in the room will be made aware of the child's individual sun cream needs.

Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun.

Educators will monitor the expiry date of sunscreen and discard when out of date.

### **Excursions**

Sun protection will be considered when excursions are planned, specifically time of day and availability of shade. All sun protection strategies apply for outdoor excursions.

### **Education**

Learning about skin protection from the sun will be incorporated into our program activities.

Our sun protection policy will be reinforced through parent newsletters, noticeboards and meetings. Information about sun protection will be made available and put on display.

Educators will be provided with educational material relating to sun protection.

Management will keep themselves informed about current trends and information, relating to sun protection by participating in industry networking groups and providing opportunities for educators to train in current practices.

### **Co-responsibility**

When enrolling their child, parents will be:

- informed of the Sun Protection Policy
- agree to provide a suitable hat for their child's use
- required to give authority for staff to apply or supervise self-application of sunscreen to their child
- encouraged to become partners in their children's sun protection by practising sun protective behaviours themselves.

## **REFERENCES**

*Education and Care Services National Regulations (WA) 2012.*

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (2017), *The Guide to the National Quality Framework*, Feb 2018.

Cancer Council Western Australia, <http://www.cancerwa.asn.au/>

Date written: November 2018

Review Date: December 2020

2015	Changed who is responsible for putting up the UV index
2016	Include block out times
2017	UV changed from 3-5 to 3 or above Full sun protection for children when UV over 3
2018	50 SPF