

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

AIM

This policy aims to protect all staff, students, contracted services, parents, families and volunteers of Burdekin Christian College from the harmful effects of UV radiation exposure.

INVOLVEMENT

This policy applies to all staff, students, visitors, contracted services, families and volunteers of Burdekin Christian College while on the premises and involved in excursions that require leaving the premises.

RATIONALE

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancers account for 80 per cent of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia, making it by far the most common type of cancer diagnosed.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Given students and staff are at College during peak UV times, Colleges play a major role in providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term SunSmart behaviour.

With this in mind, Colleges need to take into account the need to support students, staff, parents and visitors to the College by providing and promoting a SunSmart environment.

PROCEDURES

To assist with implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access daily local sun protection times via the SunSmart app, Sunsmart widget on the College website, or sunsmart.com.au

The sun protection measures listed are to be used for all outdoor activities when UV is three and above. If daily sun protection times cannot be checked, please use sun protection all year round. Outdoor activities should be minimised between 10am – 3pm.

HEALTHY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Seek shade
 - Provide a variety of shade (i.e. built, natural and portable) in all areas where students congregate including areas for lunch, outdoor teaching and sport.
 - Encourage students to use available shade.
 - Consider shade availability when planning all outdoor events and excursions.
 - Conduct regular shade assessments to determine future needs.

HEALTHY SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

2. Slip on sun protective clothing
 - Make College uniforms SunSmart as per Cancer Council Queensland recommendations. This includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts, and long pants.
 - Encourage rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.
3. Slap on a hat
 - Ensure hats worn by students cover the face, neck and ears such as broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.
4. Slop on sunscreen
 - Make available SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen or encourage students to supply their own.
 - Encourage students to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and to reapply every 2 hours when outdoors for extended periods.

ROLE MODELING BY STAFF

- Ask staff to role model good sun protection behaviours when outside, including:
- Wearing sun-safe hats, clothing and sunglasses.
- Applying SPF30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen.
- Seeking shade whenever possible.

ENGAGING THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

- Regularly reinforce and promote SunSmart behaviour to the whole College community (students, staff, families and visitors) via newsletters, website/intranet, social media, College assemblies, parent/teacher meetings and student enrolment/staff orientation.
- Encourage families and visitors to role model sun protection behaviours when involved in College activities.

POLICY TIMING AND REVIEW

- This policy is effective from 13 June 2018 and will be reviewed every three years to ensure it remains current and practical.
- Policy updates and requirements will be made available to the College community.

BCC Board Approval Dates:		
Version	Approval Date	Next Update
Version 1.1	June 2018	May 2021
Version 2.1	April 2026	May 2029