

# SUN SMART POLICY



## **PREAMBLE**

St Columba College seeks to provide students with a safe environment during school hours. Helping students understand the risks of over exposure to the sun is a key aspect of our overall duty of care towards our students. In addition to this, we acknowledge that we work in partnership with parents who also have a responsibility to educate their child/children about appropriate sun exposure. While providing students with important learning experiences through various curriculum areas, we also clearly articulate our expectations in relation to the measures we take to support sun safety.

### **1. Aims**

- Provide a safe environment for students.
- Assist students in understanding the benefits, as well as the dangers of exposure to the sun, through curriculum and safe practices.
- Provide clear expectations in relation to students using a variety of methods to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.

### **2. Role of the College Council**

- Ensure that the student Sun Smart Policy is up-to-date and regularly reviewed.
- Resource any requirements for the Sun Smart Policy.

### **3. Role of the Principal**

- Ensure that staff is aware and support the Sun Smart Policy and Guidelines.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to enable the Sun Smart Policy to be effectively implemented.
- Work with the parent community to develop procedures that support student safety in relation to exposure to the sun.
- Ensure that the College Uniform Shop supports the Sun Smart Policy through the sale of hats, sun screen and any other Sun Smart items which are deemed appropriate by the College Executive.

### **4. Role of Head of Section**

- Promote the Sun Smart Policy within the sections of the College with staff, students and the parent body.
- Follow up on students who clearly do not act within the guidelines of the policy.
- Support staff in their understanding of the follow up required of students who are not following policy guidelines.
- Carry out regular student uniform checks.
- Keep the Principal informed.

### **5. Role of the Staff**

- Ensure that all students in their care act in accord with the Sun Smart Policy.
- Promote Sun Smart understandings with students.
- Follow up with parents of students who do not follow the College sun protection expectations.
- Be committed to their responsibility of duty of care toward all students.

### **6. Role of Parents**

- Support the College Sun Smart Policy.
- Support the development of Sun Smart practices by working in partnership with the teachers and the relevant Head of Section.



## 7. Role of Students

- Abide by all aspects of the Sun Smart Policy and procedures.
- Act in a responsible manner in relation to the wearing of hats, sunscreen and sunglasses.
- Promote Sun Smart activities with younger children where appropriate.

### GUIDELINES

*The Sun Smart Policy exists along side 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.*

#### 1. Hats

- The College Uniform Policy states that students are to wear hats all year round when coming to and from the College, as well as during any outside activity. This expectation also applies for casual clothes days, excursions etc.
- Students who do not have their College hat at school must follow the instructions of the specific Section of the College. Usually, students will be requested to sit inside a designated covered area during recess and lunch with parents being notified of the need for a hat to be provided.
- Teaching staff are expected to ensure that all students leaving their room at the end of the day are wearing a College hat prior to departing.
- Students who choose not to follow the College policy on the wearing of hats will be dealt with according to the College Behaviour Management Policy.

#### 2. Sun Screen

- Students are encouraged to bring their own sunscreen to school for daily use.
- Sunscreen will be available for student use during summer months, providing there is no stated allergy on the medical form.
- Sunscreen will not be administered by teachers or other staff of the College. Students will be required to apply their own sunscreen.

#### 3. Sunglasses

- Students are encouraged to wear appropriate sunglasses.
- The College does not supply any outside eye protection to students, nor does the College take any responsibility for the loss of any eye protection/sunglasses that the students may bring to school.
- Sunglasses are not to be worn inside buildings or placed on the head when not in use.

#### 4. Shaded Areas

- The College provides a range of shaded areas for the students to use during lunch and recess breaks.
- On days of extreme heat students are kept inside buildings or under designated shade.

#### 5. Curriculum

- Through a range of curriculum, students are encouraged to learn about the benefits as well as the dangers of exposure to the sun i.e. Science, Health, PE, Pastoral Care lessons.