Background
In line with the Safety Policy, it is St Joseph’s aim to provide a safe environment for all members of the School’s community. A safe environment includes limiting the exposure of the School community to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Rationale
Exposure to ultraviolet radiation can increase the risk of damage to the skin and may result in skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first fifteen years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer. Brisbane’s ultraviolet measurements indicate that appropriate sun protection is needed throughout the entire year. As students are at school during times when ultraviolet radiation levels are at their highest, St Joseph’s has a duty to develop strategies to minimise students’ ultraviolet radiation exposure.

Policy
St Joseph’s is committed to;

- Increasing student and community awareness about skin cancer and sun protection
- Encouraging the school community to use a combination of sun protection measures
- Working towards a safe school environment that provides shade for the school community
- Assisting students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- Publicising the School’s Sun Safety Policy particularly to new families and staff
- Encouraging role modelling of sun protective behaviour by staff and parents.

Procedures

- Where possible, outdoor events will be scheduled for early in the morning or later in the afternoon. Indoor venues will be used whenever feasible.
- Incorporation of sun protection education in the School curriculum.
- The School will work in co-operation with the St Joseph’s Parents and Friends’ Association to ensure there are shade shelters and trees in the School grounds particularly in areas where students congregate.
- The availability of sufficient shade is considered when planning outdoor activities and excursions.
- Students who do not have a hat will not be allowed to play outside.
- Students and staff are encouraged to wear sun safe sunglasses.
- The use of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen will be encouraged by:
  - Listing sunscreen as an item students are required to buy for the school year
  - Educating students of the need to apply sunscreen thirty minutes prior to outdoor activities.
- Staff and students are required to wear a rash vest or shirt for swimming (unless inappropriate for competitive swimming).