



McDowall State School Sun Safety Policy

Rationale

Year-round sun protection is important for all children and young people in Queensland as research demonstrates that high ultraviolet radiation (UVR) exposure in childhood and adolescence significantly increases the risk of developing skin cancer.

Our school aims to educate our students about being sun safe in order to develop important, life-long, healthy habits, and acknowledges the important role adults play during and outside school hours to reinforce sun safety with children and young people.

In implementing this policy, our school and community recognise that:

- the policy applies to all school and school-related activities and events;
- the strategies are to be implemented during the whole school day and year-round; and
- a combination of sun safe strategies is more effective than a single approach.

Date of commencement: November 2023

Review date: November 2024

ELEMENT	STRATEGIES
Clothing requirements	<p>Students are required to wear protective clothing, including appropriate hats, when outdoors during the school day and during school-related activities (for example, excursions/camps) to reduce students' exposure to the sun, including the following strategies:</p> <p>Hats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are required to wear appropriate hats when outdoors. The only exceptions when playing sport are when a hat reduces visibility or interferes with activity skills and therefore poses a risk to students' safety; or when wearing a hat is not possible because other headwear is required to be worn for religious or safety reasons. Under these circumstances, students may remove their hats for the duration of the activity, ensuring they have applied sunscreen to uncovered skin (ideally 20 minutes) prior to participating. • Our school uniform hats are broad-brimmed school hats. • Staff remind students to wear hats before and during lunch breaks, and to and from outdoor activities. • Students who do not have hats will remain in the undercover areas in designated locations. <p>Swim shirts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are required to wear swim shirts/rash vests during all water-based activities occurring at outdoor venues, except during their race/s at competitions and carnivals.
Shade provision and use	<p>Our school maximises the use of available shade for outdoor activities:</p>

ELEMENT	STRATEGIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports activities are rotated during the week between the hall and the oval. • Temporary shade structures are used as necessary for outdoor events.
Education	<p>Our school provides educational programs on sun safety and preventative measures through the following strategies:</p> <p>Curriculum, teaching and learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun safety is formally taught as part of the implementation of the Australian Curriculum through Health and Physical Education • Staff include the risk of exposure to UVR in their curriculum activity risk assessments for outdoor activities, which includes ensuring that adequate shade is available for outdoor activities where possible, for example, using temporary shade structures. <p>Incidental teaching and promoting sun safe behaviours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidental teaching of personal sun safety strategies occurs in all year levels as part of the school routine on a regular basis, for example, through reminders to students to wear hats and apply sunscreen. <p>Staff professional development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are informed about the school’s sun safety policy and its requirements on induction.
Sunscreen provision	<p>Our school recognises the importance of sunscreen use as a sun safe measure and implements the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for student use. • Parents/carers are encouraged through school communications in the newsletter and social media to have their children apply sunscreen before school. • Parents/carers are encouraged to provide sunscreen for their child if they don’t wish their child to use the school’s sunscreen.
Modelling sun safe behaviours	<p>Our school promotes the importance of parents/carers, teachers, ancillary staff, volunteers and other adult supervisors as role models for students using the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and P&C members are encouraged to consider the use of shade, sun safe hats and clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen when doing their duties, running outside activities, and when on excursions/camps. • Parents/carers are encouraged to have their children apply sunscreen before they come to school and provide personal sunscreen for their children to use at school.
Cost considerations	<p>The department provides funding for sun safety using the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School funding is allocated annually to enable the purchase of sunscreen for each class for the whole school year. • Costs for sunscreen will be recovered in line with the Requests for Voluntary Financial Contributions procedure.

ELEMENT	STRATEGIES
Additional strategies	<p>Other strategies our school uses to be sun safe include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunscreen stations are set up at sports days and swimming carnivals. • SUN PROTECTION A “No hat-No play” policy is enforced within the playground. Students without hats are restricted to shaded areas. • Skin protection is a high priority during sports. eg. Hat, Sunscreen, Tee-Shirts, etc. If adequate skin protection is not provided, the student will be required to complete an alternative supervised activity elsewhere in the school. • All students must own and have access to a hat (wide brim 8-10cms) during the school day. Hats are to be stored within ports. • Our Expectations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision of shade (trees and shelters). ○ Wearing of wide-brimmed (8-10cm) or legionnaire style hats – in sun. ○ SPF30+ sunscreen (before school and outdoor activities). ○ Teaching about sun protection. ○ Avoiding outdoor activities in the middle of the day – where possible. ○ Role modelling (We all have a part to play – teachers, staff & parents). ○ Rashie or t-shirt worn at the swimming pool. ○ The school and students are given their own commitments towards SunSmart. ○ Sunsmart requires that parents also take on a key role. ○ Provide a Sunsmart hat and ensure that your child wears it to and from school. ○ Ensure that your child applies sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school. ○ Ensure that your child’s clothing provides adequate UVR protection. ○ Act as positive role models – Sunsmart behaviour. ○ Actively support the school’s Sunsmart and Dress Standards

Endorsed by: John Bradley P&C President David Pedwell, Staff representative	Approved by: Imogen Stager, Principal Date of approval: 25 November 2024
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