



PURPOSE

The school sun safety procedure provides guidelines to:

- Ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- Ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- Ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- Support duty of care requirements; and
- Support appropriate WH&S strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for staff and visitors.

OVERVIEW

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Given students and employees are at school during peak UV times, schools play a major role in providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term SunSmart behaviour.

This procedure has been developed to ensure that all students, staff, parents and visitors attending Laidley State High School are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

Our sun smart strategy considers the following:

- Provision of effective educational programs on sun safety and preventive measures;
- Maximisation of the use of available shade for outdoor activities;
- Provision of flexible planning of activities to reduce, as far as practicable, time spent by students in the sun between 10:00am and 2:00pm;
- Inclusion of shade tree planting and caring programs in grounds development;
- Consideration of sun protection when determining or reviewing school uniform designs;
- Encouragement for the wearing of swim shirts during all water-based activities in all state schools;
- Provision of SPF 30+ broad spectrum water-based sunscreen for students to use on uncovered areas of the skin, such as the face and the back of the hands, for all outdoor activities;
- Consideration of sun protection in relation to Parents and Citizens Association projects and activities; and
- Promotion of the importance of parents, teachers, ancillary staff and voluntary helpers as role models for students in relation to sun protection strategies.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The implementation of an effective sun safety strategy depends on the joint efforts of school, students, parents and P&C Association. Each has an interest, expertise and a responsibility in specific sections of the list.

TEACHERS

Teachers play a significant role in sun safety by reinforcing sun safety precautions, e.g. wearing of hats, appropriate time and place of activities and provision of sunscreen where appropriate. The school plays a significant role in developing expectations regarding the wearing of appropriate uniform items, ensuring that sunscreen is provided, timing activities where possible to reinforce sun safety considerations and working with the P&C Association to develop a sun safe school environment.



PARENTS

Parents play a significant role in sun safety through developing the correct attitude towards sun safety in their children by supplying hats and sunscreen, modelling good sun safety practices and ensuring that their children take appropriate sun safety precautions.

STUDENTS

Students play a significant role by realising that sun safety is serious and ensuring they develop sun safe habits and practices, including wearing sunscreen, protective clothing and keeping out of direct sun where possible.

PARENT & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION AND SCHOOL COUNCIL

The P&C Association and School Council play significant roles in sun safety by working with the school to establish a sun safe environment, supporting the provision of sunscreen through the canteen and working with the school to select sun-safe uniforms.

PROCESS

The school takes specific actions to play its part in sun safety.

HATS

- It is compulsory for students to wear a school hat when playing or learning outside. It is mandatory that students wear a school hat (preferably the school bucket hat) when playing outside on the oval during lunch breaks and when learning outside in HPE, Agriculture and other practical subjects;
- A “no hat – no play” procedure is in place for students using the oval, tennis courts and basketball courts during lunch breaks; and
- Students are encouraged to wear a school hat when travelling to and from school.

SUNSCREEN

- Students are encouraged to provide their own SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen;
- Bulk sunscreen is provided by all teachers taking outdoor lessons; and
- Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen before going outdoors and refresh their sunscreen from the bulk containers located at the tuckshop and school office.

SUN SAFE EDUCATION

- Sun safety education and prevention programs are implemented for all junior students through the junior secondary HPE curriculum; and
- Students are reminding of the importance of sun safe practices by teachers on playground duty and when supervising practical outdoor subjects and excursions. SunSmart behaviour is reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

SHADE

- The School Council and P&C Association works with the school to provide sufficient shelters and trees in high-use outdoor areas for students to utilise; and
- Portable shade structures are used to provide shade for sporting carnivals and other outdoor events.



SCHOOL UNIFORMS

- Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric is included in our school dress code and sports uniform. All school shirts are supplied with collars.

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Nil

SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- [Five ways to be sun safe](#)
- [Cancer Council skin cancer prevention](#)
- [Cancer Council Queensland sun protection](#)

APPROVAL AND REVIEW DATE

This procedure was approved on:

19 June 2020

This procedure is due for review in:

July 2021