Pacific Pines State High School

Sun Safety Policy

Pacific Pines State High

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.

Pacific Pines State High 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 the sun safety message 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;
- a combination of sun safe strategies is more effective than a single approach.

Element	Strategies
Clothing Requirements	**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.** **Hats** • **Students are required to wear a Pacific Pines State High School or an appropriate hat 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. • During the school day students are required to wear a school hat in the designated hat zones. These zones encompass the terraces, oval and outdoor basketball courts. • Our school uniform provides two hat options, a baseball cap style or a bucket hat. For the best sun protection, a bucket hat is recommended. • Students not wearing a school hat are not permitted in the designated hat zones due to sun safety. • Students who do not have hats have access to shaded areas to protect them from the sun. • Staff remind students to wear hats before and during lunch breaks, and to and from outdoor activities.

	• Students are encouraged to wear appropriate UPF50+ sunglasses when participating in outdoor activities. • For Health & Physical Education classes, spare clean hats are available for students. • For outdoor excursions, students are required to wear a school hat, they only exception to this is as it relates to an activity where a hat cannot be worn as outline in the first dot point. **School uniform** • School uniforms have an appropriate UPF rating. • In circumstances where a school uniform can't be worn, appropriate and sun safety equipment required will be listed on the excursion/activity letter. **Swim shirts** • Students are encouraged 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	**Our school maximises the use of available shade for outdoor activities, through the following strategies:** • Shaded areas are available to students for activities based at school. Theses shaded areas include permanent, and shade-provided flora. • Availability of shade is considered when planning and conducting outdoor activities offsite. Students are encouraged to access shade. • Temporary shade structures are used as necessary for outdoor events. For example, the Athletics Carnival.
Education	**Our school provides educational programs on sun safety and preventative measures through the following strategies:** **Curriculum, teaching and learning** • 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. **Incidental teaching and promoting sun safe behaviours** • Incidental teaching of personal sun safety strategies occurs in all year levels as part of the school routine on a regular basis, for example, designated hat zones where students are required to have a hat and redirected if they don't.

	Staff professional development • Staff are informed about the school's sun safety policy and its requirements on induction.
Sunscreen Provision	**Our school recognises the importance of sunscreen use as a sun safe measure and implements the following strategies:** • The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for student use. • Parents/carers are encouraged through social media and newsletter items to have their children apply sunscreen before school. • Parents/carers are encouraged to provide sunscreen for their child when participating in outdoor activities.
Modelling Sun Safe Behaviours	**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:** • Staff 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	**The department provides funding for sun safety using the following strategies:** • 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.
Additional Strategies	**Other strategies our school uses to be sun safe include:** • Sunscreen is made available to students at all outdoor activities/events.

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Version History

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