



The Gap State School - SunSmart Policy

Rationale

The Queensland Government, including The Department of Education, is committed to protecting students from the harmful effects of the sun in accordance with the Department's guidelines. **The Gap State School** is committed to sun safe practices and has developed a **SunSmart Policy** which encompasses strategies outlined in the Department's EPPR (Education Policy & Procedures Register) and will continue to review the Policy on an annual basis.

Aims

The policy aims to:

- provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention;
- provide a learning environment that support SunSmart practices;

Our Commitment – The Gap State School will:

- implement the “no hat – no play” rule;
- students without hats are unable to participate in PE lessons;
- staff model sun smart practices by wearing a broad brimmed when on playground duty;
- inform parents of the SunSmart expectations when their child is enrolled;
- include SunSmart guidelines to new staff during induction meetings;
- provide a copy of the school's SunSmart policy on the school website;
- promote sun safety with students;
- include modifications to location of PE lessons, shortened PE lessons, adjustments to play locations during lunch breaks when there are times of extreme heat;
- seek ongoing support from parents, caregivers and the school community for the SunSmart policy through school's Gazette and P&C meetings/events;
- encourage sunscreen is applied everyday irrespective of weather/climate/seasons. Cancer Council recommends sunscreen is applied everyday; use of an SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen on uncovered areas of the skin such as the face, neck, ears, arms, legs and back of hands;
- enable students without adequate sun protection to remain in shaded areas during breaks;
- ensure the school uniform conforms with the SunSmart clothing guidelines;
- ensure that sufficient shade is provided to students, staff and spectators at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events;
- ensure that SPF 30 + broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is available in every classroom for student and staff usage (students to apply);
- allow parents to provide alternative sunscreen due to allergy/skin reaction;
- use purpose built pool shade cover when conducting swimming lessons and carnivals;
- ensure students wear swim shirts during water-based activities;
- Consult with school community (via P&C) to examine the feasibility of recovering costs incurred in supplying sunscreen in line with state education fees;
- Children are permitted (upon parent request) to wear close-fitting wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS1067;

Our Expectations - Parents/Carers will:

- provide their children with a SunSmart hat (school uniform hat) and ensure that it is worn at all times when students are outside the classroom;
- apply SPF 30 + broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen at relevant times. We recommend that this is done before leaving for school, especially during summer , however this is a parent decision;
- provide a named water bottle for each of their children and refill / clean these daily;
- appear as a positive role model by implementing SunSmart behaviours;
- support and encourage children to adhere to the school's SunSmart guidelines;

Students will:

- acknowledge and adhere to the school's SunSmart guidelines;
- follow the SunSmart rules and wear the appropriate hat and clothing;
- apply SPF 30 + broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before swimming lessons and at other times such as before leaving for school if arranged with parents;
- act as a positive role model for other students by displaying SunSmart behaviours;
- bring a water bottle to school for use within the classroom and at outdoor activities;
- actively participate in sun safety lessons;

Learning:

- Programs on sun protection are included in whole school PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning – wear correct school uniform) and Health and Physical Education lessons.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through school Gazette, school website, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff induction.

Monitoring and review:

- The Parents and Citizens Association and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years).
- The SunSmart policy is available to staff, students, families and visitors.

Relevant documents / links:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/sun/protection>

[Australian Professional Standards for Teachers \(APST\) – Standard 4.4 and 7.2](#)

<https://cancerqld.org.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/#protectskin>

<https://cancerqld.org.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/>

<https://www.cancer.org.au/cancer-information/causes-and-prevention/sun-safety/be-sunsmart>

Endorsed by The Gap State School P&C on 18.08.2020.

This document is to be reviewed every 3 years.