



GAVEN STATE SCHOOL – SUN SMART POLICY

Rationale

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Given that students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, schools play a major role in minimising student's UVR exposure, whether it be direct, indirect or to diffuse, and provide an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour.

The Gaven State School's "No Hat, No Play" SunSmart policy is in place so ultraviolet radiation exposure is minimised while students are at school and their risk of skin damage is reduced. This policy is consistent with health education guidelines promoted by the Skin Cancer Foundation and the Cancer Council of Queensland and approved by the Parents & Citizen's Association.

School community beliefs about the importance of being a

SunSmart school

It is important that students, staff and parents/carers have a shared understanding of the importance of sun safety at school.

Gaven State School

- is committed to ensuring that the health and wellbeing of students is a priority
- supports that children should be able to exercise and play in a sun safe environment.
- actively teaches students about sun safety given our climate in Queensland

Responsibilities

School responsibilities:

- To provide an environment that supports SunSmart practices
- To provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin damage
- Inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their child
- Include the SunSmart policy statement in the school information package
- Encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- Seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation

Student responsibilities:

- Be aware of the school's SunSmart policy
- Take personal responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart
- To comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines
- To act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- take up opportunities to apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before going outdoors

Parent responsibilities:

- Provide the school broad brimmed hat for their child and encourage that they wear it to and from school
- Encourage their child to apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school
- Ensure that their child wears the school uniform which has features to provide adequate protection from UVR. These features are: dark-coloured, collars and sleeves, closely woven fabric and natural fibre
- Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour
- Support the school's SunSmart policy.

Strategies

At **Gaven State School** we promote the SunSmart policy by:

- Regularly promote the school SunSmart policy and its rules and guidelines
- Ensuring all students develop the habit of wearing their hat during break times
- Requiring students to sit, talk and play quiet games, in either the junior or senior under covered areas, for the play section in break times if they are not wearing a hat