

Talara Primary College

Policy : Sunsmart 2019



Purpose

Talara Primary College realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

Our school recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. The implementation of this policy will therefore be conducted throughout the year.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all children attending Talara Primary College are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

Aims

The policy aims to:

- provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection
- provide environments that support SunSmart practices
- create an awareness of the need to reschedule work commitments and outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices.

Consultation

This policy was drafted by the school administration following the guidelines suggested by the Queensland Cancer Fund. (Working towards a SunSmart Queensland - A Policy Guide for Organisations). The Principal Policy Officer and Key Learning Area Regional Co-ordinator (Health and Physical Education) for the Sunshine Coast were also consulted.

During 2019 the Welfare Team reviewed and streamlined the policy. This policy was presented to the Talara Primary College Parents and Citizens Association and ratified.

Staff were made aware of the policy and procedures.

Policy Coverage

This policy covers the primary school students of Talara Primary College.

Policy	Action by Talara
Students will be required to wear hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside (eg recess, lunch, sport, carnivals, outdoor excursions and activities).	The Talara uniform includes a wide brimmed hat with the darker navy colour providing added protection. Students will be educated on the lack of protection provided by caps and their use not be permitted. Students without hats will be required to remain seated in an under-cover area.
Students to wear school uniform that considers sun protection.	Students will wear Talara's school uniform which follows EQ's sun safety strategies that provide adequate sun protection.
Students will be encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor play activities.	Talara has a number of covered play areas.
Students will be encouraged to take extra precautions whilst swimming or at the beach.	All students will be expected to wear sleeved sun-shirts.
Outdoor activities will be held in areas of shade, whenever possible.	The outdoor covered areas will be used as much as possible. The school aims to maintain and plant more trees.
The school will minimise the time the students spend outdoors in the hotter part of the day.	Both breaks are of 35 minutes duration, the first 10 minutes being supervised eating time. Lunch will be eaten in the shaded court areas. The library is open for students most lunch times.
Staff will be encouraged to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviours.	Staff will be encouraged to wear protective hats and clothing and sunscreen for all outdoor activities. They will seek shade whenever possible.
The school will ensure adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.	Talara has invested in permanent and portable shade structures for use at major sporting events.
The school supports the use of a SPF 30+, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.	On enrolling, parents will be informed of the SunSmart Policy and encouraged to consider the provision of sunscreen for their child's use and to counsel their child on effective application. Parents will be reminded of Sun-safe practices in the school newsletter and in the school prospectus. The school will make available sunscreen for staff and student use, whenever possible. These will be located in teaching blocks.
The school will incorporate programs on Sun Safety in the curriculum.	SunSmart behaviour is reinforced over a range of curriculum areas and in physical education and health in particular. Sun-safe practices promoted on Parades throughout the school year.

Management Procedures

Sunscreen

- A container of 30+ sunscreen will be available for use by students and staff and kept in the First Aid Room and teaching blocks.
- Tubes of 30+ sunscreen will be kept in the excursion first aid packs.
- Students are required to take responsibility for application of sunscreen.
- For all-day activities, such as Swimming Carnivals and Sports Days, students will be reminded to carry their own sunscreen and reapply at regular intervals. Sunscreen will be provided at the First Aid tent.

Hats

- Children without a hat will be required to sit in a covered area.
- Those without hats for an outdoor lesson will be required to sit in the shade in such a place as to be still under the supervision of their teacher.

Sun Shirts

- Students are required to wear a sleeved sun shirt for any water activity.

Information for parents

- Information notes for excursions and non-routine activities will include reminders about the need for sun protection.
- Specific requirements for sun shirts for swimming activities will be emphasised.