Kawana Waters State College
Sunsmart Policy Guidelines

Rationale

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. It is the most common form of cancer in Australia, affecting all age groups and accounting for around 80 per cent of all new cancers diagnosed each year.

Research indicates childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer in later life. Given students are at the College during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, schools play a major role in both minimising students’ UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour.

With this in mind, Kawana Waters State College realises the need to protect all members of the College community and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage and other health related issues as a result of excessive sun exposure.

Aims

The policy aims to:

- Increase student and community awareness about sun protection to reduce the risk of skin cancer, sun damage, dehydration and other health issues.
- Encourage the entire College community to use a combination of sun protection measures all year round to promote a safe school environment and a healthy workplace
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
Our Commitment

Kawana Waters State College will:

- inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their child
- include the SunSmart policy statement in the College enrolment package, College formation booklet and College Website.
- increase the amount of shade in the College grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees
- incorporate education programs that develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to make informed choices around sun safety (where possible connected to the range of health issues)
- require staff to act as positive role models for students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- regularly communicate the College commitment to sun safe practices, through College newsletters and other communication methods
- direct students to wear College hats or move to shaded areas
- have available SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities
- direct students to wear rashies or shirts when involved in aquatics activities
- direct students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at all times
- review the College dress code to conform with the Queensland Cancer Council SunSmart clothing guidelines
- ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events

Our Expectations

Parents/Carers will:

- provide a College hat for their child and ensure that they wear it.
- ensure that their child applies SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for the College
- act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour
- support the College SunSmart policy

Students will:

- comply with the College SunSmart policy
- wear College hat whenever in the sun
- wear College Sunsmart uniform
- take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart
- apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors
- use shaded or covered areas when outdoors
- act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour