Sun Safety Policy

RATIONALE

At Stanley River Environmental Education Centre we believe that all members of our school community (visiting staff, parents, students) have the right to feel safe and valued. A component of this is to be provided with information, structures and planning revolving around Sun Safety.

“Queensland has the highest incidence of skin cancer and melanoma in Australia and the world. Winter sun in Queensland is dangerous enough to cause sunburn and consequently contribute to skin cancer. Over exposure to the sun during childhood contributes to the development of skin cancers in later life. Melanoma can also occur as early as the teenage years.” (Queensland Cancer Fund, p.2)

As “students spend approximately 42 weeks of the year at school and are often exposed to the sun for lengthy periods at times when the UV radiation is at its strongest” (Queensland Cancer Fund, p.2), we have a responsibility to develop and maintain appropriate Sun Safety Strategies so as all members of the school community will gain greater knowledge and awareness of the need to be “Sun Safe”.

AIMS

Through the development and implementation of a shared Sun Safety Policy in a Supportive School Environment, we aim to create a positive and proactive attitude to Sun Safety amongst all members of our school community. Ultimately Sun Safety is a personal choice. We aim to develop life-long strategies and beliefs which will reduce the risks of skin cancer for the total school community.

SUN SAFETY STRATEGIES

1. Compulsory wearing of hats (either wide brimmed or legionnaire style) by all students, staff and volunteer helpers for any outdoor movement or activities.
2. Compulsory wearing of collared shirts during daytime hours.
3. Flexible planning encouraged to reduce exposure to the sun between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. wherever practical.
5. Provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen for use by the students, staff and volunteers.
6. Encourage all school community members to utilise SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreens, SPF 30+ lip creams, zinc cream, etc. to all exposed areas of skin.
7. Encourage students to sit and play in shade areas whenever possible.
8. Continue to review and plan activity and play areas for the future.
9. Reinforce the need for all school community members to be appropriate role models.
10. Permit students to wear appropriate sun glasses to protect their eyes from UV radiation if they wish to or need to. The sunglasses must have a sun protection factor of 97% (EPF 10).
11. Provide all visiting student on camp programs with a drink bottle for use during their camp
12. Remind students to drink plenty of water as they can dehydrate quickly.
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

STUDENTS
- wear appropriate hats;
- wear appropriate clothing;
- utilise sunscreen;
- play in shade areas if possible;
- strive for sun safe practices.

TEACHERS
- teach students about sun safe practices;
- model appropriate sun safe practices;
- wear appropriate hat and clothing;
- reinforce and encourage appropriate sun safe practices amongst other school community members, especially students;
- plan for outdoor activities with sun safety in mind (where ever practical);
- support the implementation of sun safety strategies.

TEACHER AIDES
- model appropriate sun safe practices;
- wear appropriate hat and clothing;
- reinforce and encourage appropriate sun safe practices amongst other school community members, especially students;
- support the implementation of sun safety strategies.

ADMINISTRATIVE / USO SUPPORT
- model appropriate sun safe practices;
- wear appropriate hat and clothing;
- reinforce and encourage appropriate sun safe practices amongst other school community members, especially students;
- support the implementation of sun safety strategies.

PARENTS/ COMMUNITY
- model appropriate sun safe practices;
- wear appropriate hat and clothing;
- reinforce and encourage appropriate sun safe practices amongst other school community members, especially students;
- support the implementation of sun safety strategies;
- reinforce sun safe practices external to school.

REFERENCES AND POLICY SOURCE
- Queensland Department of Education - Sun Safety Strategy HS-03 DOEM Section 1 and 2
- EQ Sun Safety policy document 2009
- Park Lakes SS Sun Safe Policy