Policy Classification: C300

Policy Area: SUN SAFETY

Update: 24/08/2000

Notes:

Policy Areas:
(R/C) ~ Relationships/Communication
(E) ~ Enrolment
(F) ~ Finance
(B) ~ Building: Facilities – Maintenance and Planning
(M) ~ Management/Organisation
(C) ~ Curriculum
(S) ~ Staffing

Policy Identification Key ~ Levels
100 ~ State
200 ~ Diocesan
300 ~ Local

Ref:../mydoc/board/policiesheet
SUN SAFETY

Respect for Life

PREAMBLE

This policy has been developed based upon the assumption that sensible and reasonable precautions are appropriate at school within the reality that exposure to the sun at school, on a day-to-day basis, is generally of lesser significance in proportion to the amount of potential exposure a child can gain (e.g. weekend activities, school holidays).

Thus the underlying position is that precautions are possible without totally curtailing school-related outdoor activities which have relevance to the primary area. It is recognised that there are special occasions during the year (e.g. Sporting Carnivals and swimming lessons) which require special consideration.

POLICY

Whilst children are at school all precautions will be taken to avoid overexposure to the sun. In particular, sensible precautions will be adopted when outdoor activities are planned at school.

CONSEQUENCES

GENERAL PROVISIONS:

❖ The Parents & Friends Association keep the issue of sun safety in mind - as well as matters relating to climate and functionality - when making decisions about school uniform. (For example the introduction of a Sports Shirt with a collar and a more effective sun protective hat for both girls and boys.)

❖ Where particular parents consider that special circumstances exist with respect to their own student(s) sun safety needs (for example, a long-sleeved shirt) then such arrangements can be made through contact with the principal.

❖ Sunscreen will be available to each class in the school, provided by the Parents & Friends Association. However, as some children may be sensitive to particular brands parents may choose not to have their child use the class supply and elect to provide another type where such sensitivity exists.

❖ Teachers will be aware of the use-by date on sunscreen.

❖ Attention has been given to the timing of Swimming and Athletics Carnivals each year and arrangements for swimming lessons:
**SWIMMING CARNIVAL:** This Carnival is held during school hours because we believe, as part of our school's Physical Education program, that it is important that each student is encouraged to participate. To conduct the carnival in the evening would change its status to a 'voluntary' activity and the reality would be that many children would not participate. However, the venue for the Carnival is well shaded and children awaiting events are also marshalled under shade.

**ATHLETICS CARNIVAL:** Facilities available do not permit evening scheduling. The venue used does permit children to be in shaded areas between events.

**SWIMMING LESSONS:** The heavy demand from Mackay schools for the use of the Mackay City Pool prevents our scheduling lessons to suit our own school to the exclusion of others. Hence the primary precaution is to provide sunscreen for children to use (see above) and permit children to wear T-shirts during lessons.

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### RESPONSIBILITIES

#### PARENTS
- To be aware of the importance of role modelling appropriate sun safety behaviours for children.
- To encourage children to be aware of the dangers associated with exposure to the sun and support the efforts of the school to ensure protection for children (e.g. the wearing of hats.)
- To ensure that children do have the correct school hat (named) and do have it with them at school.
- To provide sunscreen for the child's personal use if the P & F provided sunscreen is not suitable for the child.

#### STAFF
- To be aware of the importance of role modelling appropriate sun safety behaviours for children. For example, ensuring they have sun protection themselves whenever in the playground (hat, umbrella).
- To require that children have a hat in order to participate in physical education and sporting activities at school and also to implement the school’s "no hat, no play" rule when doing playground supervision.
- To make (the P & F Association provided) sunscreen available to the students, educate about correct usage and (as appropriate, eg. younger children) assist with application. The use of sunscreen is particularly important for swimming lessons and for the annual Swimming and Athletics Carnivals.
- To take advantage of shaded areas in the playground whenever possible when undertaking outdoor activities (e.g. having the 'team not fielding' sitting under a tree.)
- To include 'sun safety' in the class Health program each year. (There are resources available in the library to support this.)

#### STUDENTS:
- To have the correct school hat with them each day and to wear it at break times and when the class moves into the playground for activities.
- Older students (eg. Years 3 to 7) are responsible for the self-application of sunscreen and are expected to maintain a personal awareness of the need to take such precautions on appropriate occasions (eg. swimming lessons and school sporting carnivals.)