ST AUGUSTINE’S SCHOOL SUNSMART POLICY AND GUIDELINES

At St Augustine’s School we recognise the danger posed by exposure to ultra violet (UV) solar radiation as well as the thinning of the protective ozone layer. Far North Queensland’s climate has lots of sunshine and high levels of UV due to our geographical location and this contributes to high risk of skin damage due to the sun. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility in ensuring that exposure to UV solar radiation should be minimised for students, staff, and parents. This is particularly relevant for the students in our care during the high risk period during the day, five days a week for each school year. We here at St Augustine’s will take precautionary measures to protect students, staff and parents from this hazard.

To meet these objectives St Augustine’s School will promote the initiation of the following:

Playground:
- The “hat on, I play” school rule will be strictly enforced.
- While outside of the classroom the students will wear a school uniform hat correctly. (Legionnaire or Bucket style school hats)
- Students without a hat must sit in the senior undercover area – no play.
- Sun safe education is spiralled throughout the curriculum from Prep to Year 7.
- The school day is planned with sun safety in mind including two shorter lunch breaks of equal length including an earlier lunch break and a later snack break.

Protective Clothing:
- All members of the school community will wear protective hats. This includes staff and parents assisting in outdoor activities.
- Both the students’ school and sport uniforms protect the shoulders and have a colour that can be buttoned up to protect the neck and throat. During all class excursions, students must wear full school uniform including their sun safe school hat.
- During swimming lessons and carnivals, students are also expected to wear protective rashie tops or t-shirts in and out of the water as well as hats when they are not swimming.
- All members of the school community are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing and hats for yard duties and outdoor sporting activities whilst at school.
- Guidelines are in place for free dress days which are communicated to the community through newsletters with reminders by classroom teachers and Assemblies.

Protective Sunscreens:
- Students are expected to come to school with sunscreen already applied. However 30+ sunscreen is provided by the school in each of the classrooms and students are encouraged to reapply before they leave their classrooms for lunchtimes, Phys Ed classes and other outside activities.
- 30+ sunscreen is also taken on all school excursions, school camps and external sporting activities with teachers reminding students when they need to reapply.
- Sunscreen reminders must appear on all consent and excursion/camp/school sports’ days information forms and letters.

**NB** Where a student is known to be sensitive to sunscreens, parents should take responsibility to notify the school and the classroom teacher, and provide the necessary suitable alternative to protect their child’s skin.

**Protective Procedures:**
- Where possible, outdoor activities will be organised in the morning to minimise the time spent outdoors between 11am and 3pm.
- Teachers will encourage students to apply sunscreen before any outdoor activity or lunchtime play session.
- Hats are part of the full school uniform and it is compulsory to wear one at all times whilst outdoors.
- Eating during lunchtime is in the shaded undercover area.
- During sporting events and NAIDOC activities, use of our three portable shade tents is provided for extra shade.
- Assemblies are conducted in the undercover shaded area.
- Students are expected to bring a water bottle to school each day. At sporting events, they are also asked to bring an extra water bottle to help stay hydrated.
- Staff and parents are encouraged to act as role models by practising Sun Smart behaviour.

**We here at St Augustine’s School endeavour to provide a protective environment:**
- Adequate shaded areas are provided (undercover areas, shelters, tents, the replanting of trees that will grow into large shady trees, thanks to the generosity of Lions International etc).
- The Junior and Senior play equipment areas have beautiful new sunsafe and cyclone proof shade sails that were erected early in 2012 with thanks to the P & F Association who annually fundraise to pay for the loan of some $40 000 for these sails.

**Awareness:**
Being a "Sun Smart School" we will:
- The Sun Smart guidelines will be taught throughout the curriculum in all classes in order to develop a high awareness of the hazards of UV.
- The School programs also incorporate the prevention of skin cancer.
- Protective behaviours and choices will be taught to all students and continued to be reinforced.
- Information reinforcing skin protective behaviours will be communicated in a positive way to the wider community of parents through newsletters, class information letters, parent meetings, assemblies etc.

Amended Tuesday 12 November 2013.