

# MACKAY STATE HIGH



# SUN SAFE POLICY

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# **MACKAY STATE HIGH SCHOOL**

## **SUNSAFE POLICY**

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# 1. CONTEXTUAL RELATIONSHIP OF MSHS SUN SAFE POLICY TO WHOLE SCHOOL'S PHILOSOPHY

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Mackay State High School's aims and objectives are as follows:

## Mission Statement

- To encourage learning for life.

## Global Aim

- To foster a desire for learning together, supporting each other, creating our futures.

## Objectives

- To develop basic skills such as observation, reading, writing, speaking and listening, measurement and computation, methods of study, solution of problems, research and interpretation so that each child can completely explore his/her social, physical and spiritual environments.
- To develop the mental and physical skills of health, fitness and safety in order to provide a firm foundation for future living.
- To learn to accept social, economic and cultural differences - an appreciation and respect for others rights and their worth and dignity as individuals.
- To develop desirable characteristics of personality (sensitivity, humility, self-confidence, self-discipline and responsibility) and sound ethical and moral behaviour.
- To develop pride in work and a feeling of self-worth.
- To develop an understanding of self, of work environment, of society, of events of the time and of human behaviour.
- To develop "flexibility of mind" to enable students to cope with rapid technological change.
- To learn how to use leisure time effectively and to appreciate culture and beauty in the world.

To help achieve the above this school has a number of overarching policies to ensure that effective procedures exist to enhance and manage the many issues impacting on schools.

## Welfare Policy

- **Learning/Teaching**
- **Safety/Health**
  - Drugs
  - Critical Incidents
  - Bullying/Harassment
  - Smoking
  - Sun Safety
  - Sexual Harassment
- **Community/Buildings**

Mackay State High School Sun Safe Policy is directly linked to **Objective 2** *“to develop the mental and physical skills of health, fitness and safety in order to provide a firm foundation for future living”*.

## **2. RATIONALE**

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Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. It is well established that over-exposure to UV radiation from the sun during the first 18 years, increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is preventable. Sun protection during childhood and adolescence means life long reduced risk. (Qld Cancer Fund - What Makes a School Uniform Sun Safe, 2001)

Mackay State High School recognises the danger that inadequate sun protection causes to health and has established a policy to ensure that students whilst at school practice sun safe behaviours.

Mackay State High School addresses this issue on two fronts:

1. **PREVENTION** and
2. **INTERVENTION**

This policy and subsequent procedures have been ratified by staff, parents, students and the wider community.

The Mackay State High School Sun Safe Policy is binding for all members of the school community whilst they are on school premises or at a school function or excursion.

This policy aims to:

1. be a building block in achieving the overall mission “to encourage learning for life”.
2. focus on the school objective – to develop the mental and physical skills of health, fitness and safety in order to provide a firm foundation for future living.
3. promote and maintain a health promoting school environment in which the welfare of all school community members is paramount.
4. document the school community’s position on, and accepted procedures for sun safety

## **3. PREVENTION**

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Mackay State High School will ensure the following preventative measures are implemented:

1. This policy supports the Mackay State High School community in striving toward “learning for life”.
2. Health and Sun Safety education is taught as part of a comprehensive Health Education Program which consists of a balance of utility knowledge, attitudes and values clarification and skill development appropriate to the developmental level of the students.
3. This policy is consistent with the Education Queensland’s policy framework in relation to Sun Safety.
4. The contents of this school Sun Safe Policy are contained in relevant school publications.
5. Mackay State High School encourages key community groups to support our school.
6. This Sun Safe Policy is reviewed every three years. The school Welfare Committee will assume responsibility for the review process. The maintenance of this policy is the responsibility of the school community.

#### **4. INTERVENTION, MANAGEMENT & CONSEQUENCES**

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These intervention procedures are designed to address Sun Safety issues to ensure the health and well-being of all parties concerned are represented.

Mackay State High School encourages students whilst on school premises, at any school function, excursion or camp to wear Mackay State High School hat/cap (compulsory for Yr 8 students in 2005, compulsory for all students in 2006).

- Hat/cap must be worn by all students whilst using School Oval.
- Mackay State High School uniform reflects Sun Safety, which is collars and appropriate material.
- Teachers encourage the application of 30+ Sun Screen prior to all HPE and Agriculture lessons and sporting activities.
- Staff will model Sun Safe behaviours whilst on school premises.
- Mackay State High School will endeavour to minimise students' exposure to the sun by maximising shade created by trees and built structures eg Sun Sails over student areas.
- Students without adequate protection are encouraged to use shaded or covered areas during recess and lunch times.
- Students are encouraged to be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school population from excessive exposure to the sun.
- The school will involve the students in a variety of learning activities across the curriculum to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills pertinent to skin protection.
- The school Sport Program will, in addition to those strategies mentioned, provide a variety of sports which can be played at indoor venues and will provide shade and shelter at outdoor sporting functions particularly if held between 10am and 2 pm.
- On enrolment of a student, parents will be –
  - ✓ informed of the Sun Safe Policy
  - ✓ requested to purchase a school hat
  - ✓ encouraged to provide SPF 30+ Broad Spectrum water resistant sunscreen for use at school
  - ✓ encouraged to act as positive role models and practise skin protective behaviour themselves, particularly when attending school functions.