Sun Protection Policy

Purpose
The Elanora SHS community is committed to protecting students from the harmful effects of the sun in accordance with the Department’s Sun Safety in Secondary Schools Guidelines. This policy incorporates our Responsible Behaviour Plan For Students which states “the rights of all to be safe” as one of its' three basic rights.

Consultation
All members of the Elanora community contribute to the ongoing development of the Sun Protection Policy. This consultation includes Parents and Citizens Association, staff, students, the wider community and relevant research. The policy is continually updated in line with school policy development and ongoing evidence-based direction.

Rationale
Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80 per cent are skin cancers. Given students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, between 10am and 3pm, schools play a major role in both minimising a student’s UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour. Most skin damage and skin cancer is preventable. As students will spend a portion of their day outdoors, we are committed to protecting them from the harmful effects of the sun. Given this Elanora SHS realises the need to protect children’s skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

Aims
The policy aims to:
- Provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection and engage the support of parents as part of this process;
- Provide environments that support SunSmart practices; and
- Create an awareness of the need to reschedule work commitments and outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices.

Purpose
The purpose of the SunSmart policy is to ensure students and staff at the Elanora SHS campus are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.
Elanora SHS Commitment

- Publish the SunSmart policy statement in the Elanora SHS Code of Conduct, student diary (both available on enrolment) and on the school website;
- Increase the amount of shade in the school grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees;
- Incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum;
- Encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models of SunSmart behaviour;
- Seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation, through newsletters and our web site;
- Encourage all students and staff to wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears and SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities;
- Encourage students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas when outdoors;
- Ensure adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events;
- Have SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen available at whole school outdoor events e.g. sports carnivals;
- Incorporate a broad brimmed hat into the Elanora SHS uniform;
- Review the Sun Protection policy annually.

Elanora SHS Expectations

- Students will:
  - Be aware of the school’s SunSmart policy;
  - Where possible, use shaded or covered areas when outdoors;
  - Take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart i.e. wear the school hat where provided, sunglasses and sunscreen while in the sun and sun resistant tops while undertaking water activities;
  - Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour; and
  - Participate in initiatives to protect the school population from excessive exposure to the sun.