



Mount Gravatt State High School Hat & Sun Safety Policy

The aims of the Mount Gravatt SHS Hat and Sun Safe Policy are to:

- reduce student sun exposure where possible in line with the DET Sun Safety in State Schools Procedures.
- maintain the high standard of uniform.
- be reasonable and fair.

Rationale

Year-round sun protection is important for all children and young people in Queensland as research demonstrates that high ultraviolet radiation (UVR) exposure in childhood and adolescence significantly increases the risk of developing skin cancer.

Our school aims to educate our students about being sun safe in order to develop important, life-long, healthy habits, and acknowledges the important role adults play during and outside school hours to reinforce sun safety with children and young people.

In implementing this policy, our school and community recognise that:

- the policy applies to all school and school-related activities and events;
- the strategies are to be implemented during the whole school day and year-round; and
- a combination of sun safe strategies is more effective than a single approach.

Date of commencement: January 2023

Review date: December 2023

ELEMENT	STRATEGIES
Clothing requirements	<p>Students are required to wear protective clothing, including the Mt Gravatt HS formal hat and sports cap, when outdoors during the school day and during school-related activities (for example, excursions/camps) to reduce students' exposure to the sun, including the following strategies:</p> <p>Hats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students at Mt Gravatt SHS are expected to own both a formal hat and sports cap or bucket hat as per the Mt Gravatt Uniform Policy. • Formal Hats are to be worn with the formal uniform and Sport or Bucket hats are to be worn with the sports uniform. With the exception of lunch time play on the oval or courts where the expectation is that students wear one of the hat options. <p>Student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to have their formal hat at school each day. The exception to this is sport days. Tuesday for Yr. 7 – 9

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	<p>and Wednesday Yr. 10 – 12 as well as carnival days when students are expected to have their sports hat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are encouraged to wear the appropriate hat to and from school on a daily basis to reduce sun exposure. • Whilst on school grounds students are expected to wear the appropriate hat when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moving around between classes and at lunchtimes between areas. - Whilst on the oval, basketball/netball and volleyball courts. - Whilst sitting in an area that does not have complete cover from sun exposure. For example, under a tree, shade shelters etc where sun exposure is still possible. • Hats are not expected to be worn when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students are sitting under a man-made shelter that completely protects them from the sun. For example, building awnings and verandas. - Playing organised sport when a hat reduces visibility or interferes with activity skills and therefore poses a risk to students' safety; or when wearing a hat is not possible because other headwear is required to be worn for safety reasons. Under these circumstances, students may remove their hats for the duration of the activity, ensuring they have applied sunscreen to uncovered skin (ideally 20 minutes) prior to participating. <p>Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff remind students to wear hats in the above outlined conditions and issue a lunchtime detention if a student is unable to produce their hat and comply with the instruction of placing it on their head. • Staff will send students who are unable to produce their hat from the oval, basketball/netball and volleyball courts at lunch times to an area protected from the sun and issue a detention. • Staff taking students for practical activities will not allow students to participate if they do not have the appropriate school hat. • Staff will conduct hat checks at the start of Period 3 each day and issue detentions to students who do not have their formal hat with them. The exception to this is on sport days where students should have their sport cap or bucket hat with them. <p>Swim shirts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are required to wear swim shirts/rash vests during all water-based activities occurring at outdoor venues, except during their race/s at competitions and carnivals.
	<p>Our school maximises the use of available shade for outdoor activities:</p>

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Shade provision and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport and physical activities are rotated during the year between the Hall, Courts and the oval. • Temporary shade structures are used as necessary for outdoor events, for example, Athletics Carnival, Cross Country Carnival, Swimming Carnival.
Education	<p>Our school provides educational programs on sun safety and preventative measures through the following strategies:</p> <p>Curriculum, teaching and learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun safety is formally taught as part of the implementation of the Australian Curriculum through Health and Physical Education • Staff include the risk of exposure to UVR in their curriculum activity risk assessments for outdoor activities, which includes ensuring that adequate shade is available for outdoor activities where possible, for example, using temporary shade structures. <p>Incidental teaching and promoting sun safe behaviours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidental teaching of personal sun safety strategies occurs in all year levels as part of the school routine on a regular basis, for example, through reminders to students to wear hats and apply sunscreen. <p>Staff professional development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are informed about the school's sun safety policy and its requirements on induction.
Sunscreen provision	<p>Our school recognises the importance of sunscreen use as a sun safe measure and implements the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for student use. • Parents/carers are encouraged through social media and newsletter items to have their children apply sunscreen before school. • Parents/carers are encouraged to provide sunscreen for their child if they don't wish their child to use the school's sunscreen.
Modelling sun safe behaviours	<p>Our school promotes the importance of parents/carers, teachers, ancillary staff, volunteers and other adult supervisors as role models for students using the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and P&C members are encouraged to consider the use of shade, sun safe hats and clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen when doing their duties, running outside activities, and when on excursions/camps. • Parents/carers are encouraged to have their children apply sunscreen before they come to school and provide personal sunscreen for their children to use at school.
Cost considerations	<p>The department provides funding for sun safety using the following strategies:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School funding is allocated annually to enable the purchase of sunscreen for each class for the whole school year. • Costs for sunscreen will be recovered in line with the Requests for Voluntary Financial Contributions procedure.
Additional strategies	<p>Other strategies our school uses to be sun safe include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunscreen stations are set up at sports days and swimming carnivals.

Endorsed by:	Approved by: Date of approval:
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