54-56 Norris Road
Mackay Queensland 4740
Email: principal@fitzgeraldss.eq.edu.au

Phone: (07) 4965 6333
Website: www.fitzgeraldss.eq.edu.au
Email: admin@fitzgeraldss.eq.edu.au

Fitzgerald State School
Sun Safety Policy

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: September, 2022
Review date: September 2026, Reviewed Annually -every September

ELEMENT	STRATEGIES
Clothing requirements	Students are required to wear protective clothing, including appropriate hats, 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: **Hats** • Students are required to wear appropriate hats when outdoors. The only exceptions when playing sport are 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 religious or 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. • Our school uniform hats are either broad-brimmed, bucket and/or legionnaire hats. • Staff remind students to wear hats before and during lunch breaks, and to and from outdoor activities. • Students who do not have hats will play undercover. **Swim shirts** • 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.
Shade provision and use	Our school maximises the use of available shade for outdoor activities: • Temporary shade structures are used as necessary for outdoor events, for example, Under 8s Day, Sports Day, Grandparent's Day, Science Fair and Welcome to Prep Day.
Education	Our school provides educational programs on sun safety and preventative measures through the following strategies: **Curriculum, teaching and learning**

ELEMENT	STRATEGIES
	• 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. **Incidental teaching and promoting sun safe behaviours** • 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. **Staff professional development** • Staff are informed about the school's sun safety policy and its requirements on induction.
Sunscreen provision	Our school recognises the importance of sunscreen use as a sun safe measure and implements the following strategies: • The school SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for student use during excursions and whole school outdoor events. • 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	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: • 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	The department provides funding for sun safety using the following strategies: • 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	Other strategies our school uses to be sun safe include: Sunscreen stations are set up at sports days and swimming carnivals.

Endorsed by: Jess Majid (P&C President)  ***Date of approval: 26/10/2026*** *Russell Hope* (Staff representative)  **Date of approval: 26/10/2026**	**Approved by:** *Tracey Adams* (Principal)  **Date of approval: 26/10/2026**