

Holi Festival/Colour Powder Event FAQ's

The Holi Festival, which will involve teachers throwing coloured powder into the air and students running/walking through the powder. Below are some frequently asked questions about the event and the coloured powder that is used.

Q: When/where is it? When will it start?

A: The activity will start during period 4 (12:40-1:40) and will run on the oval at the school.

Q: Why are we doing this event?

A: This event is being undertaken as a way for students to experience a culture activity as well as celebrate the end of the year and the new beginning of the new year, which is a part of the significance of the Holi festival.

Q: What safety measures will be in place

A: As the event has not been done at the high school before, as a school we are taking several precautions to make sure that the event runs smoothly and safely. These precautions include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Having a First Aid station on site near the activity
- All teachers will be shown the proper way to throw the powder making sure it is only aimed between shoulder and hip
- Students will go through the event in staggered starts allowing all students participating to get colour on them, whilst being safe.
- Diversion lanes where there will be no powder, but the student can still be involved in the event.
- Face masks will be supplied to the students to avoid inhaling the powder, this will be mandatory for any student with respiratory conditions that are participating in the event.
- As the powder contains Gluten, students with any gluten allergies should also wear masks to avoid accidental inhalation.
- Student will need to wear eye protection when going through the powder, so they should where possible bring their own sunglasses, safety glasses/goggles will be provided to the students.

Q: What happens afterwards, do students need a change of clothes?

A: The students will then go to lunch after the Holi activity, where they can, if they wish, change their clothes. The residue powder will leave the students ready for the end of the day and the company has guaranteed that no staining will occur.

Q: Do you need water to make the colour powders work?

A: No, water is not necessary and to minimize the risk of the event, students will not be wet as they go through the event.

Q: How do we clean up?

A: The powder can be swept off hard surfaces or washed away with bucket of water or hose. It is biodegradable and will not damage grass or harm waterways.

Q: What are the ingredients in the powder?

A: It is predominantly (~99%) Australian Wheaten starch (CAS #9005-25-8) known as Cornflour in Australia mixed with the food colourings listed below (~1%).

We also add small amounts of the following preservatives:

- Tricalcium phosphate E341 (CAS No: 7758-87-4) is for anti clumping and common in baby powder
- Calcium Propionate E282 (CAS No: 4075-81-4) is a mould inhibitor common in bread and dairy products

Q: What food colours are used in the colour powder?

A: The synthetic food colourings used to colour the powders are:

- Brilliant Blue E133
- Tartrazine E102
- Carmoisine E122
- Ponceau E124
- Amaranth E123
- Sunset Yellow E110

Quality Coloured Powder recommends that anyone with a known allergy to any of these food colourings do not contact the powder.

Q: Is the powder gluten free?

A: **No.** Despite being made from what is known as cornflour, the actual grain is Australian **Wheat**. It is technically called 'Wheaten Cornflour' and contains gluten.

Q: What happens if the powder gets in our eyes, mouths, hair or ears?

A: It may cause a bit of irritation but nothing serious, immediately flush any affected area with water. For eye protection we recommend that people BYO goggles or sunglasses.

Q: Will the powder affect asthmatics? How do we keep asthmatics safe whilst still being included?

A: The colour powder will create a cloud of colour powder in the air, for most people inhaling a small amount of the colour powder as they move through the cloud is not problematic.

However asthmatics and people with other respiratory issues should use caution, given that it would not be ideal for them to be present in any area of floating particulates as this may trigger an autoimmune response.

Preventative measures will be used such as diversion lanes around the colour powder cloud or wearing a face mask.

Q: How do I make our event more eco-friendly?

Our colour powder is made of cornflour and food grade dyes. It easily cleans up off participants and the surrounding environment.

Q: What should people wear, will the colour stain clothes, skin or hair? How do we clean up?

A: The dry colour powder is guaranteed NOT to stain and will wash off easily.

However, if the powder comes in contact with water (or other liquid like sweat), the food colouring is released and is likely to temporarily stain skin, hair, clothes. Because it is food colouring it will wash or wear off.

The powders clean off all surfaces easily. The first rain will clean off the grass and hard surfaces that powders fell on, or a quick hose or sweep will do the job.

We advise people not to wear their best clothes or most expensive shoes to a colour run.