



## SUNSMART POLICY

### RATIONALE

Overexposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection and must be protected from overexposure to the sun whilst at school.

### AIM

- Increase student awareness of the harmful effects of the sun.
- Educate students as to suitable sunsmart protection strategies.
- Encourage students and staff to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun.
- Ensure a safe school environment which provides shade for students and staff.

### IMPLEMENTATION

**This policy is to be read in conjunction with the school's Student Dress Code.**

#### **Curriculum**

- Skin Cancer awareness and prevention programs will be included in the curriculum for each grade level at the beginning of the year and in Term 4.
- The school newsletter and school assemblies will be used to promote skin cancer awareness and prevention and to highlight and reinforce the Sunsmart Policy.
- Teachers will have access to up-to-date information on skin cancer and its prevention.
- Professional development will be available as appropriate eg Education Officers from the Anti-Cancer Council.

#### **Protective Clothing**

- The School Dress Code will include appropriate sun protective clothing as part of the school uniform and sports uniform. The School Dress Code will specify broad brimmed hats or legionnaire style hats as these provide the best protection for the face, neck and ears.
- The wearing of hats will be compulsory during Terms 1 and 4 and will be strongly encouraged at other times when UV index levels are likely to reach level 3 (likely from September to April). The school will therefore encourage parents to use their own discretion to assess whether their children would benefit from wearing hats in other than Terms 1 and 4.

- Hats will be worn at recesses, lunchtimes, during PE and sport sessions and at other major outdoor school activities such as excursions and sporting carnivals. Students will also be encouraged to wear hats when walking to and from school.
- Staff will be encouraged to wear appropriate sun protective clothing and will be required to act as role models by wearing broad brimmed hats during terms 1 and 4.
- Visitors to the school will also be encouraged to act as role models by wearing appropriate sun protective clothing and broad brimmed hats.

### **Suncreens**

- The use of SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen will be promoted.
- Parents will be encouraged via the school newsletter, to assist their children to apply sunscreen before school. However, teachers will allow time for students to apply sunscreen as part of their preparations to spend time outdoors.
- Students will be educated in the correct application of sunscreen.

### **School Organisation**

- As far as possible, all students will be sun protected during sport and PE classes and maximum use will be made of indoor and shaded facilities during these classes.
- Whenever possible, outdoor activities on hot days will be scheduled before 11.00 am.
- At times when the temperature rises above 35° organised sport will be reviewed.
- Suitable hats, clothing and sunscreen will be required for all camps and excursions with the items listed on the Parent Permission Forms.
- Students without broad brimmed hats will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas.

### **Occupational Health and Safety**

- Consideration will be given for sun protection for all teachers and ancillary staff involved in outdoor activities and yard duty.
- There will be particular encouragement given to PE and sports teachers to be sunsmart as they are at particular risk from the harmful effects of the sun.
- At times when temperatures rise above 35 degrees organised sport will be reviewed.

### **Environment**

The Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee of the School Council will continue to implement long-term shade strategies for the school grounds to provide a range of shaded play options for students and to particularly ensure that high density play areas are well shaded.

## **EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's on-going review cycle. It is anticipated that the policy will be reviewed after four years of implementation, however, changes as deemed necessary by the school's leadership and/or changes in Departmental terminology may necessitate that the policy is reviewed at an earlier time.

**THIS POLICY WAS LAST RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL ON ..... 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 2017**