

# ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SUNSMART POLICY

Developed date: 2007

Next Review: 2011

### Overarching Learning Statement

Students value and implement practices that promote personal growth and well-being.

### Rationale

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world where currently two out of three Australians develop some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. Exposure to the sun's ultra violet radiation during childhood and adolescence is a major cause of skin cancer in later life. Skin cancer is preventable. Awareness programs incorporated in the school's curriculum and behaviour practices means life-long reduced risk for the children and the staff.

### General Aims

1. Our Sunsmart policy has been adapted to ensure that all staff and children attending Assumption Catholic Primary School are protected from skin damage caused by harmful UV rays of the sun.
2. It is to be implemented throughout the year, but with particular emphasis during the months September through to May.
3. The Sun Protection practices outlined in this policy will be applied to all outdoor school activities.
4. The policy will be developed in consultation with the school community via the Parents and Friends Association.

### Methods

#### A. Behaviour

- The school will require students to wear hats whenever they are outside, e.g. Physical Education, excursions, camps, sporting events and general play.
- If students do not have a hat they are required to stay undercover either outside their classroom or in the undercover assembly area, **not** under trees in the playground.
- The school uniform hat is an adequate form of sun protection.
- Hats are to be removed on entering a school building and when attending assemblies in the undercover area.
- Children's names need to be clearly marked on their hats.

- Staff are requested and encouraged to wear hats outside.
- Encourage positive role modelling of sun protective behaviour by all school staff, parents and guests visiting the school.
- Encourage the daily application of sunscreen before school, and prior to recess/lunch breaks and any outdoor activity.
- Encourage children to use available shade for some outdoor activities and play.

## **B. Curriculum**

- Sun Protection and skin cancer awareness programs are incorporated into the Health and Physical Education learning area for all year groups.
- Promote sun protection throughout the year via assemblies, P.A. and school newsletters.
- Encourage the application of sunscreen where appropriate (bearing in mind skin sensitivity to sunscreen of some children).

## **Resources**

- Hats available for purchase from school uniform shop.
- Sunscreen dispensers located in classrooms.

## **Evaluation**

The policy and its implementation will be reviewed every two years in consultation with the whole school community.