

SUN AWARENESS POLICY

RATIONALE

Australia has the **highest rate** of skin cancer in the world. Over exposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is an important contributing factor to the developmental skin cancer in later life. As students are at school during times of “Peak Ultraviolet” radiation, schools can play a major role in creating a supportive environment that minimises exposure and encourages sun protective behaviours. These early learned behaviours should become entrenched in the student’s life style forever.

There are 5 key protection mechanisms:

- Slip on protective clothing
- Slop on SPF 30+ sunscreen
- Slap on a hat
- Seek shade
- Slide on sunglasses

However, there are limitations to achieving the standards required to satisfy the Cancer Council’s “Sunsmart” program that are the result of the increasingly independent behaviour of student as they move into their teens.

POLICY

The College adheres to a “Sun Awareness Policy”, supported by proactive implementation of the recommended Cancer Council *Sun Smart* guidelines, while being mindful of the limitations posed by social pressures amongst teenagers and practical enforcement.

MANAGEMENT

1 Teachers are required to

- a) teach and support maxim adherence to the use of sun protection measures (rather minimise sun exposure) in the student’s College and personal life, especially in Terms 1 and 4 by using the following:
 - Years K – 6 are subject to the requirement of “**No Hat No Play**”
 - Years 7 – 10 are taught the strategies for effective sun protection and encourage practise them
- b) Ensure a supply of sunscreen for student use at outdoor venues where students are representing the College, especially during Terms 1 and 4

2 Parents are required to

- a) Support teachers in the implementation of the college Sun Awareness Policy by
 - Ensuring their student owns a College-endorsed hat and brings the hat to school
 - Supplying their child with sunscreen for college-organised outdoor events in Terms 1 and 4
- b) Reinforce the Sun Smart and Sun Awareness message and strategies with their child/ren