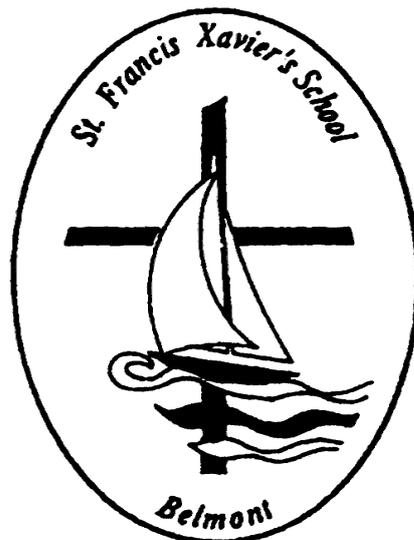

Sun Smart Policy



Let Your Light Shine

2013
to be reviewed
2014

RATIONALE

“Australia has the highest incident of skin cancer in the world with 270,000 new cases and 1,200 deaths recorded each year.”

Cancer Council Student Welfare: Protection from the Sun

With this in mind, St Francis Xavier’s Primary School acknowledges the importance of sun protection, encouraging all members of the school community to take effective skin protection measures.

By the age of fifteen many children have developed irreversible skin damage due to sun exposure. Sunburn and even a mild redness are indicators of skin damage. Most skin damage and skin cancer is preventable through reducing exposure to the sun.

AIMS

The aims of the Sun Smart Policy are to promote amongst students, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Education on the importance of sun protection.
- Personal responsibility for and decision-making about skin protection.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in the school to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students attending our school are protected throughout the year from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

As part of the general skin-protection strategies:

- Students will wear their school hat whenever they are outside e.g. sport, carnivals, outdoor excursions and activities.
- Students who do not have their hats with them will only be permitted to play in completely shaded areas of the playground. At times, a policy of *No Hat No Play* may need to be enforced determined by class based activities and playground availability.
- Students will be encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor play activities.
- Teachers will use discretion when scheduling outdoor activities. Generally, they should occur before 10.00am and after 2.00pm whenever possible.
- Staff will be encouraged to act as role models by practicing *Sun Smart* behaviour. This may include wearing protective hats, using a SPF 30+ sunscreen and seeking shade whenever possible.

St Francis Xavier’s Primary School:

- Ensures that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Continually looks for means to provide more shelter and shade trees.
- Encourage and support the use of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students.
- Limit exposure times through timetable changes when possible.
- Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention in the curriculum.
- Reinforce regularly the *Sun Smart Policy* in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.

When enrolling a child, parents will be:

- Informed of the Sun Smart Policy.
- Required to purchase a school hat for their child's use.
- Encouraged to provide SPF 30+ sunscreen for their child's use.
- Encouraged to act as positive role models and practice skin-protection behaviour themselves, particularly when attending school functions.

BUDGET

The school will endeavour to allocate funds annually for:

- Purchasing sunscreen
- Appropriate resources to assist student / parent education

EVALUATION

For this policy to be effective, it is necessary to monitor and evaluate its implementation. It is important for the staff to monitor and promote skin protective behaviour of the school community. This policy will be reviewed at the beginning of each school year.