

## Sun Smart Policy Statement

### Rationale:

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80% are skin cancers. Research suggests that at least two-thirds of all melanomas occurring in Australia could be prevented if children were protected from the sun during their first 15 years.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows that severe sunburn contributes to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.

Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are highest during the hours that children are at school. As children will spend a portion of their day outdoors, we are concerned about protecting them from the harmful effects of the sun.

With this in mind, St Kevin's Catholic School realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from the exposure to the sun.

### Aims:

The policy aims to:

- provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection
- provide environments that support SunSmart practices
- create an awareness of the need to reschedule work commitments and outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices (wherever possible)
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### Procedures:

Our school recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. The implementation of this policy will therefore be conducted throughout the year.

The purpose of this SunSmart policy is to ensure that all children attending our school are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

### Our Commitment:

St Kevin's Catholic School will:

- inform parents of the SunSmart policy
- include the SunSmart policy statement on the school website & increase the amount of shade in the school grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees
- incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum
- encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour

- seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation
- ensure that all students and staff wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears
- encourage students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times
- ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events
- ensure that SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is included in the school first aid kits
- review the SunSmart policy annually.

## **Our Expectations:**

### **Parents/carers will:**

- act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour and support the school's SunSmart policy

### **Students will:**

- be aware of the school's SunSmart policy
- take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart
- comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines
- use shaded or covered areas when outdoors
- act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- participate in SunSmart education programs.