ST. ANNE’S SUNSMART POLICY

Philosophy
Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with two out of three Australians developing some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. Over-exposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is known to be a major cause of skin cancer.

Goals of Sunsmart Policy
* Increase student and community awareness of skin cancer
* Adopt practical skin protection measures
* Develop strategies that encourage responsible decision-making about skin protection by members of the school community
* Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade where possible for students and staff
* Inform parents during student enrolment of the school’s SunSmart policy
* Encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear hats and sunscreen for high-risk times such as lunch times, sport, excursions, camps and travelling to and from school.

Policy Implementation

Behaviour
* Require students to wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside (e.g. recess, lunch, sport, excursions).
* Require parents to supply their child/children with appropriate blockout
* Encourage the daily application of sunscreen by students before school, prior to recess and lunch breaks, sport, excursions and home time.
* Encourage students to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities
* Encourage teachers, staff and parents to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviours

Curriculum
* Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention into the curriculum at all grade levels.
* Teachers to have access to up-to-date information on skin cancer and its prevention.
* Regularly reinforce SunSmart behaviour in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.
* Ensure the SunSmart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (e.g. camps, excursions, sporting events).

Environment
* Schedule PE/Sport activities before midday and after 3.00 pm particularly during Terms 1 and 4.
* Organise outdoor activities to be held in areas with plenty of shade whenever possible.
* Work toward increasing the number of shelters and trees so as to provide shade in the school grounds.
School organisation

* Students who are not appropriately protected (sunscreen and hats) must remain out of
  the sun.
* Skin cancer strategies should be initiated and implemented through the Parish
  Education Board in the interests of student and staff health and in the development of a
  healthy school environment.
* Appropriate behaviour should be modelled by teachers and parents to reinforce the
  policy.

Evaluation

A combined Staff-Parent Sub-Committee will review the effectiveness of this policy each year.
They will:

1. Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff and parents and make
   recommendations for improvement.
2. Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade
   provision.
3. Update and promote curriculum material relevant to SunSmart activities.