SUN PROTECTION POLICY

PURPOSE: To observe good student welfare practice by implementing sound sun protection procedures.

RATIONALE:
The increasing occurrence of skin cancer in Australia is a matter of concern for the whole community, including schools. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with an estimated 160,000 new cases and 1,200 deaths recorded annually. Schools have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students and staff and this responsibility includes the provision of adequate protection from the sun throughout the year. Primary schools can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer by encouraging all members of the school community to take effective skin-protection measures.

AIMS
By promoting this policy amongst all members of the school community they will develop:
- positive attitudes towards skin protection
- lifestyle practices which will help reduce the incidence of skin cancer
- personal responsibility for the decision-making about skin protection
- awareness of the need for environmental measures around the school to reduce exposure to the sun.

IMPLEMENTATION:
- Children will wear the Kellyville school broad brimmed hat to protect their face, neck and ears whenever outside e.g. recess, lunch, sport, carnivals, etc. This policy applies all year round.
- A red broad brimmed hat is considered part of our basic school uniform.
- A “No Hat – No Play” policy will be enforced all year round.
- Sun Protection will be part of the PD/Health/PE Program.
- Children will be encouraged to play, have lunch, etc in shaded areas.
- Sporting activities, whenever possible, will be scheduled before 12 noon (EST) to avoid the hottest part of the day in term 1 and term 4.
- Children are encouraged to wear SPF 15+ sunscreen.
- Reviews of the playground will be made regularly to see if shaded areas are sufficient.
- Staff will wear hats when on Playground duty and lead by example about safe sun practices

EVALUATION:
Through positive encouragement, special lessons and programs, staff and parents will be able to identify a general increase in the student’s knowledge and understanding of the Skin Awareness Program. Students will understand why sun protection is important and will take effective action to protect themselves. Parents, staff and other school community members will understand the risks of sun exposure and will support each other in developing and implementing the school’s sun protection plan throughout the year.

In consultation with teachers, parents and students, the Sun Protection Policy will be reviewed for effectiveness by consideration of the following issues:
- the extent to which sun protection teaching and learning activities are provided in the curriculum.
- the adequacy of the current school uniform for sun protection.
- support of sun protection strategies observed in leisure use.
- existing shade provisions at school and at sporting venues.
- the extent to which outdoor activities and events are scheduled for peak UVR times.

REFERENCES:
Protection from the Sun – Memorandum to Principals 90.027
Protection from the Sun – Guidelines to assist in implementing the Student Welfare Policy 1997
Developing Sun Protection Policy & Plans: Guidelines for Schools in NSW (The Cancer Council, NSW -2001)
Skin Safe – NSW State Cancer Council 1989
Sun Smart – Information & Support Material (NSW Health, The Cancer Council NSW)