Date issued: March 2014
Date to be reviewed: 2018

RATIONALE
We live in an area with the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Two out of every three people will develop some sort of skin cancer in their lifetime. 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.

With this in mind, St. Joseph’s Primary School realises the need to protect children’s skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from 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 outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices.

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 Joseph's Primary School will:
- Inform parents of the SunSmart policy when they enrol their child
- Include the SunSmart policy statement in the school prospectus
- Plan for future shade requirements e.g. sails
- 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, through newsletters, parent meetings etc.
- Ensure that all students and staff wear broad brimmed hats that protect the face, neck and ears, and SPF 30 + broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities.
- Encourage students to use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times
- Encourage children to wear Sun shirt or T shirt over swimsuits when swimming outdoors, during school swimming activities
- Ensure that, wherever practical, outdoor activities don’t take place during midday sun
- 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 sports kit
- Review the SunSmart policy at least every three years.

Our expectations
Parents/carers will:
Ensure that their child applies SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school
Send children to school in the correct school uniform (e.g. shirts with sleeves, sports shirt have UPF 30+).
Act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour
Support the school’s SunSmart policy and help to design and regularly update the 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 by wearing suitable hats, clothing, sunscreen
- Apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
- Participate in extended outdoor activities
- Use shaded or covered outdoor areas when appropriate
- Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- Participate in SunSmart education programs.