



## **FERNTREE GULLY NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL SUNSMART POLICY**

### **RATIONALE**

A SunSmart Policy has been developed to ensure that all children and staff attending Ferntree Gully North Primary School and its Out of School Hours Care Facility are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet rays.

A SunSmart Policy is needed because:

- Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world.
- Two out of three Australians will contract skin cancer at some stage of their lives.
- The major cause of skin cancer is the exposure to ultraviolet radiation during childhood and adolescence.

### **PURPOSE**

- To heighten the awareness of the whole school community of the importance of sun safe behaviour in our children now, in order to prevent the likelihood of skin cancer in their adulthood.
- To formulate and implement a set of whole school practices to ensure protection for the whole school community.

### **GUIDELINES**

- To raise the awareness and educate the whole school community about the dangers and effects of overexposure to the sun, through information sessions, newsletter articles and curriculum activities.
- The school will ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for the number of children by planting trees, building permanent shade structures and the children will be encouraged to use these areas.
- The school will seek ongoing support from parents and the community for the SunSmart Policy and its implementation.
- The school will ensure that Ferntree Gully North Primary School broad-brimmed and Legionnaire hats, which provide protection for the face, neck and ears be available for purchase from the school uniform shop.
- Children will be involved in learning activities that develop knowledge, attitudes and skills relevant to personal skin protection.
- Children will wear sunscreen and appropriate clothing i.e. Legionnaire hats and sleeves at sport/physical sessions, excursions (including swimming), in the Out of School Hours Care Facility, recess times and all extra curricular activities during September through till April. Children who do not have adequate protection will be directed to an area protected from the sun.
- Children will be encouraged to wear the same protective clothing if needed during September through to April.



- It is the responsibility of the parents, at the beginning of the day, to apply sunscreen to their children if they wish to do so, as the application of sunscreen immediately prior to morning recess is ineffectual.
- It is the responsibility of parents to provide their children with personal sunscreen to be used at school and at the Out of School Hours Care Facility.
- Staff are to encourage children to apply sunscreen, wear a hat and play in shaded areas.
- It is the responsibility of the Out of School Hours Care Facility to remind children to wear hats, apply sunscreen and play in shaded areas.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

- Teaching Teams will incorporate SunSmart activities as part of their programs.
- The Out of School Hours staff will implement the SunSmart Policy.
- The Buildings and Grounds Committee will accept responsibility for providing shaded areas as required.

### **EVALUATION**

- The number of children wearing hats.
- The availability of suitable shaded areas within the school grounds.
- The school community will evaluate the effectiveness of activities and strategies to promote and encourage SunSmart awareness.

Ratified 2015