

## BEAUMARIS PRIMARY SCHOOL SUNSMART POLICY

### **Rationale:**

Over exposure to the sun presents a serious health risk. Students must therefore be educated as to the need for suitable sun protection, and protected from over exposure to the sun whilst at school. To that end, sun-smart strategies at Beumaris Primary School will focus on behaviour, curriculum and environment.

### **Aims:**

The Sunsmart Policy aims to:-

- increase student and community awareness of skin cancer risks and of practical means of protection;
- develop strategies which encourage responsible decision-making about skin protection;
- work towards a school environment which provides adequate shade for students and teachers; and
- encourage students and teachers to wear protective clothing and hats for outdoor activities and at high risk times.

### **Implementation:**

#### Behaviour:

The school attempts to affect behaviour by requiring compliance with relevant school rules and by encouraging sun-smart decisions. To that end, the school requires, from 1<sup>st</sup> September until 30<sup>th</sup> April:

- students and staff to wear school Sunsmart hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside (eg. recess, lunch, sport, excursions, and camps); and
- students without hats to play in the shade cloth area.

The school encourages, during the same period:

- children to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities;
- children to wear sunglasses and protective clothing (when not at school, for e.g. wearing t-shirts rather than singlet tops on camp and sporting activities) and to apply sunscreen before outdoor activities;
- staff to wear appropriate sun-smart clothing; and
- staff members and parents (particularly parent helpers) to act as role models by practising Sunsmart behaviours.

To support the above, the school will:

- provide a minimum of SPF30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student use;
- implement strategies to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies); and
- in the case of extreme temp and/or high UV days, consider modifying outdoor activities at the discretion of the principal.

#### Curriculum:

The school will:

- incorporate programs on Sunsmart practices across the curriculum; and
- regularly reinforce Sunsmart behaviour in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, assemblies, student and teacher activities

#### Environment:

The school will:

- schedule outdoor activities before 11:00 am and after 3:00 pm during Terms 1 and 4 whenever possible; and
- work toward increasing the number of shelters and trees so as to provide adequate shade in the school grounds.

#### References-

<http://www.cancervic.org.au/>

**Ratified by School Council: July 2012**

**To be reviewed: 2015**