St Patrick’s Primary School
Swansea

Sun Safety Policy
2012

SUN SAFETY POLICY 2012
RATIONALE

“Australia has the highest incident of skin cancer in the world with 270,000 new cases and 1,200 deaths recorded each year.”

Cancer Council Student Welfare: Protection from the Sun

With this in mind, St Patrick’s Primary School Swansea, acknowledges the importance of sun protection, encouraging all members of the school community to take effective skin protection measures.

By the age of fifteen many children have developed irreversible skin damage due to sun exposure. Sunburn and even a mild redness are indicators of skin damage. Most skin damage and skin cancer is preventable through reducing exposure to the sun.

AIMS

The aims of the Sun Smart Policy are to promote amongst students, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Education on the importance of sun protection.
- Personal responsibility for and decision-making about skin protection.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in the school to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students attending our school are protected throughout the year from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

- As part of the general skin-protection strategies:
  - Students will wear their school hat whenever they are outside e.g. sport, carnivals, outdoor excursions and activities.
  - Students who do not have their hats with them will not play, and will remain seated in an area protected from the sun. A ‘No Hat No Play’ strategy will be introduced.
  - Students will be encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor play activities.
  - Outdoor activities will be held in areas of shade whenever possible.
  - Staff will be encouraged to act as role models by practicing Sun Smart behaviour: wearing protective hats, using a SPF 30+ sunscreen and seeking shade whenever possible.
St Patrick’s Primary School Swansea:

- Ensures that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- Has changed lunch time and recess times so that students time in the hottest part of the day is restricted (lunch 11.20 and recess 1.35).
- Has provided more shelter and shade trees.
- Encourage and support the use of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students.
- Limit exposure times through timetable changes when possible.
- Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention in the curriculum.
- Reinforce regularly the Sun Smart Policy in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.

When enrolling a child, parents will be:

- Informed of the Sun Smart Policy.
- Requested to purchase a school hat for their child’s use.
- Encouraged to provide SPF 30+ sunscreen for their child’s use.
- Encouraged to act as positive role models and practice skin-protection behaviour themselves, particularly when attending school functions.

**BUDGET**

The school will endeavour to allocate funds annually for:

- Purchasing sunscreen
- Appropriate resources to assist student / parent education

**EVALUATION**

For this policy to be effective, it is necessary to monitor and evaluate its implementation. It is important for the staff to monitor and promote skin protective behaviour of the school community. This policy will be reviewed at the beginning of each school year and Term 4 when the summer season commences.