Kentville State School’s Sun Smart Policy

Rationale
Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80 percent are skin cancers. Research indicates childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. Queensland has also Australia’s highest rate of beach use. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows 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.

Aims
This policy aims to:
• Provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection;
• Provide environments and model practices that support Sun Smart practices; and
• Create an awareness of the critical hours of daytime sun exposure and the importance of re-scheduling outdoor activities where possible and / or additional precautions necessary to support Sun Smart practices.

Procedures
Our school recognises that the risk of damage by the sun is a hazard even in winter and so our policies apply and are implemented throughout the year. The purpose of this Sun Smart policy is to ensure all children attending our programs are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

Our Expectations
Parents / Carers will:
• Provide a Sun Smart hat for their child and ensure they bring it to school – as per our Dress Code Policy NB: The Cancer Council Queensland recommends hats with an 8cm to 10cm brim, legionnaire-style or bucket (minimum of 6cm brim) hats;
• Ensure their child brings SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen to school or excursions such as swimming, sports carnivals, camps, etc. Alternatively, provide permission for their child to use the SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen available at school;
• Use shaded or covered areas when outdoors;
• Act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of Sun Smart behaviour; and
• Participate in Sun Smart education programs.

Our Commitment
Kentville State School will:
• Inform new students, parents/carers and teachers of the Sun Smart policy prior to their attendance at our school;
• Ensure all students wear a swim shirt and swimming cap during all swimming lessons;
• Provide and access shade areas and structures for activities on site and at nearby venues;
• Incorporate education programs, that focus on skin cancer prevention, within our school’s curriculum and outdoor activities;
• Encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of Sun Smart behaviour;
• Ensure all students and staff wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears and SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen when involved in outdoor activities;
• Ensure our Dress Code expectations comply with the Cancer Council Queensland Sun Smart clothing guidelines;
• Ensure adequate shade is provided at outdoor events;
• Ensure SPF 30+ broad-spectrum sunscreen is available for students at the school site and that parents/carers complete a permission form to use this school supplied product;
• Review the Sun Smart policy annually;