THORNTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

RATIONALE:

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all children attend our school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. As part of general skin-protection strategies:
   1.1 Children will wear hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside eg. sports, sports carnivals, outdoor excursions and activities (applies across all terms).
   1.2 Children will be encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor play activities.
   1.3 Class outdoor activities will be held in areas of shade whenever possible
   1.4 Teachers will schedule outdoor activities before 10.00am (11.00am daylight saving time) whenever possible unless using covered areas.
   1.5 Staff will be encouraged to act as role models by practising SunSmart behaviour:
      * Wearing protective hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activities
      * Seeking shade wherever possible

2. Our School will:
   2.1 Promote hats and clothing which satisfy Cancer Council guidelines as part of its uniform. No hat, no play policy implemented.
   2.2 Encourage children to seek whatever shade is provided at sporting carnivals and outdoor events when possible eg. between games
   2.3 Provide more shelters and shade trees. Continue to upgrade and maintain shelters and plant more trees.
   2.4 Incorporate programs on skin cancer prevention in its curriculum.
   2.5 Reinforce regularly the SunSmart Policy in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.

3. When enrolling a child, parents will be:
   3.1 Informed of the SunSmart Policy.
   3.2 Requested to purchase a school hat.
   3.3 Encouraged to model skin-protection behaviour themselves.

4. The sun protection plan will be reviewed along with other school policies. The school’s sun protection statement / action plan will be re-submitted to the Cancer Council every 3 years.

Reviewed: February 2011