



RA TIONALE

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with two out of three Australians developing some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. Over exposure to sun during childhood and adolescence is known to a major cause of skin cancer. (Anti Cancer Council of Victoria, *'Skin Cancer and you'*)

This SunSmart policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending Sebastopol College are protected from over exposure to harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. This policy documents over sun protection practices in the area of behaviour, curriculum and environment. These practices will be applied to all school activities including sporting carnival excursions and camps.

OBJECTIVES

The goals of the SunSmart policy are to: Increase student and community awareness of skin cancer through information strategies. Assist students to develop strategies which encourage responsible decision making about skin protection. Work towards a safe school environment which provides shade for students and staff. Encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sun screen during high risk times such as lunch times, sports, excursions and camps. Ensure that parents are informed of the College's SunSmart Policy through the College Newsletter and forums.

IMPLEMENTATION

BEHAVIOUR

- Encourage all students and staff to wear sun protective hats that shade the face, neck and ears during recess, lunchtime and during sporting and other high risk activities.
- Encourage all students and staff to apply at least SPF 15 broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen before all outdoor activity and re-apply every two hours. Sunscreen will be available from various sites in the school
 - School First Aid Attendant, PE Department, Senior School Office, AP's Office.
- During camps and excursions suitable hats, clothing and sunscreen should be required, these items should be listed on the parent permission form. Appropriate behaviour should be modelled by teachers and parents to reinforce the policy.

CURRICULUM

- Sun protection and skin cancer prevention programs will be incorporated into appropriate Key Learning Areas of the College curriculum.
- Encourage students to be actively involved in initiatives to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.
- Promote sun protection throughout the year via the school newsletter, assemblies, daily bulletin, parent and staff meetings and whole school activities.

ENVIRONMENT

Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff. Develop a "SunSmart" plan progressive implementation that addresses College grounds environment needs.

EVALUTION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.