



Review Date: 2014

Revised:

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Queensland has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with two out of three people contracting skin cancer at some stage during their lives.

The major cause of the common skin cancer is cumulative unprotected exposure to the sun. Research shows that most skin damage occurs during childhood and adolescence.

For all these reasons, the St Thomas's School Community has a need to:

- a) Raise awareness in all members of the school community, especially our students, of the need to take all precautions to maximise protection from the sun.
- b) Make every effort to ensure we minimise children's exposure to the harmful effects of the sun – in and out of school hours.

The staff at St Thomas's School will support parent's efforts in both regards.

POLICY

This policy therefore will incorporate and encourage the following behaviour and activities within the school community throughout the school year:

- Staff and parents to model the wearing of hats for out-of-doors activities
- School assemblies, when possible, will be:- brief - in shade/indoors
- The requirement that each child will wear the St Thomas's School broad-brimmed hat throughout the school year.
- Reminder and encouragement from teachers and parents on the wearing of hats and other protective clothing.
- No hat – no play – sit in assembly area.
- Whenever outdoors, teachers and students must wear hats, except for movement between classes.
- Children to eat little lunch and big lunch in shade, especially in warmer months.
- For health reasons, each child is to have their own tube of SPF15+ Sunscreen (minimum protection) in their desk. Children will be encouraged to use before little lunch and big lunch, PE, sport and any other outdoor activities.
- Provision of SPF30+ Sunscreen to accompany all excursions, camps and sporting functions.
- Incorporating skin care and cancer protection in Health and Physical Education lessons.
- Attempt to provide as much shade as possible at sports carnivals and outside activities.
- Maintaining practice of early morning sport time as far as possible.
- Continual encouragement and positive reinforcement re precautions.