SUN SAFETY POLICY

* needs to be updated every 2 years

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Preamble:
Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research shows that severe sunburn contributes to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage. Research also suggests that at least two thirds of all melanomas occurring in Australia could be prevented if children were protected from the sun during their first 15 years.

Rationale:
This policy has been developed based upon the assumption that sensible and reasonable precautions are appropriate at school within the reality that exposure to the sun at school, on a day-to-day basis, is generally of lesser significance in proportion to the amount of potential exposure a child can gain at other times (e.g. weekend activities, school holidays).

Thus the underlying position is that precautions are possible without totally curtailing school-related outdoor activities which have relevance to the primary school curriculum on a day-to-day basis. However, it is recognised that there are special occasions during the year (e.g. Sporting Carnivals and swimming lessons) which require special consideration.

Values:
Safety, Self-Respect, Responsibility, Discipline

Policy Statement:
MacKillop Catholic Primary School seeks to promote a safe, healthy working and learning environment through the awareness and implementation of appropriate sun safety strategies and practices.

Implementation Issues:

1. The school will keep the issue of sun safety in mind - as well as matters relating to climate and functionality - when it makes decisions about school uniform and the development of facilities in the school (e.g. shade areas etc).
2. Where particular parents consider that special circumstances exist with respect to their own student(s) sun safety needs (for example, a long-sleeved shirt) then such arrangements can be made through contact with the Principal.

3. SPF 30+ sunscreen will be available to each class in the school. However, as some children may be sensitive to particular brands parents may choose not to have their child use the class supply and elect to provide another type where such sensitivity exists.

4. Attention should be given to the timing of Swimming and Athletics Carnivals each year.

- **Swimming/Athletics Carnival**: At these times teachers and parents should be particularly mindful of wearing hats and applying sunscreen and all available shade structures will be used.

5. Staff and parents should be aware of the importance of role modelling appropriate sun safety behaviours for children. Staff are required to wear a hat when on Supervision duty.

6. To require that children have a school hat in order to participate in physical education and sporting activities at school and also to implement the school's "NO SCHOOL HAT, NO OUTSIDE PLAY" rule when doing playground supervision. Children are able to play in the Library if they forget their hat.

7. Should sunglasses be required it is recommended that they comply with the 'Australian Standard'. The school requires that sunglasses be of a ‘fully-framed’ style of a suitable colouring (Eg. not overly-‘loud’) and should not have mirrored lenses.

8. On designated non-uniform days the children are required to wear sunsafe clothing and a school hat.

9. To take advantage of shaded areas in the school/grounds whenever possible when undertaking outdoor activities (e.g. making use of the 'Covered Area' and portable shade structures when suitable to an activity).

10. To include 'sun safety' in the school Health program.

**Reflection Material:**