SUN SMART POLICY

RATIONALE
Qld has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80 per cent are skin cancers. Research indicates childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer in later life. Given students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, between 10 am and 3 pm., schools play a major role in both minimising a student’s UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour.

POLICY STATEMENT
St Mary’s is committed to the provision of workable and effective strategies to protect the physical well-being of students and staff who are exposed to ultraviolet radiation from the sun in the course of school activities. The school will ensure that:

- Provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection
- Provide environments that support Sun Smart practices
- Create an awareness of the need to reschedule outdoor activities to support Sun Smart practices
- Protective hats and clothing will be worn by staff & students when deemed appropriate outdoors (between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm)
- The ‘No Hat – No Play’ Sun Safety Rule will be consistently applied.

PROCEDURES
- Parents will be informed through newsletters and parents meetings. The policy statement will also be included in the Parent Handbook and school website.
- All staff will act as positive role models for children in all aspects of Sun Smart behaviour.
- Students and staff will wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears and encourage the regular application of SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen when involved in outdoor activities.
- Wherever practicable, outdoor activities will take place before 10 am. and after 3 pm, or held under cover
- The school will provide shade tents at sporting carnivals and outdoor events.
- The ‘No Hat – No Play’ Sun Safety rule will be implemented consistently.
- The school uniform will provide good protection from the sun, with compulsory shirts and collars for daily school, sports carnivals, camps, excursions and other special days (e.g. Free Dress days).
- Students attending swimming classes or carnivals will be required to wear t-shirts or rash-vests which fully cover their upper torso, when not in the water, at an outdoor venue.
- Girls are required to wear a one piece swimming suit, as deemed appropriate at discretion of the Principal.
- Students will be encouraged to apply sunscreen at home before they attend school.
- Students will be actively encouraged to play in one of the shaded areas of the school at lunchtime and recess during first and fourth term.
- Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles to school and into the classrooms.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to drink water before, during and after play.
- On days of extreme heat, alternative classroom activities may be selected by teachers as approved by the Principal, instead of outdoor morning tea or lunch time play.
- The school Cross Country Carnival will be held at the end of Term 1.
- The school Athletics Carnival will be held at the end of Term 2.
- Swimming Lessons will be conducted at WIRAC (Covered pool facility).