**SUNSMART POLICY**

**Rationale:**
This policy has been developed to encourage all children and staff attending our school to seek to maximise their protection from skin damage caused by exposure to the harmful Ultra-Violet rays of the sun.
The program runs throughout the year with particular emphasis being in place during the first and fourth terms.

**Purpose:**
1. To facilitate a consistent whole-school community approach to SunSmart practice.
2. To equip students, staff and visitors with habits of SunSmart good practice.
3. To alert students and staff to the dangers of excessive or unprotected exposure to the sun.
4. To maintain Eaglehawk North's official accreditation as a SunSmart school.

**Guidelines for Implementation:**
1. The school will maintain a policy of expanding shade areas in the playground by planting additional trees and building shade structures.
2. Children will be actively encouraged to use shaded areas during recess and lunch breaks.
3. Lunch will be eaten in classrooms for the first 15 minutes of the lunch period to limit the time spent in the sun.
4. Outdoor activities such as Physical Education/Sport or assemblies will be conducted outside peak UVR times or held in shaded areas during Terms 1 and 4.
5. Sun protection and skin cancer awareness will be part of the Health-P.E. Program.
6. Students and staff will be actively encouraged to apply sunscreen regularly, e.g. prior to school, before lunch, P.E. lessons, sport, excursions etc Parents will be encouraged to provide sunscreen for their children.
7. The SunSmart message will be reinforced and promoted to the whole school community on a regular basis through forums such as the school newsletter, on enrolment of children, at assemblies and at staff meetings.
8. Staff and parents will be encouraged to provide positive models by observing SunSmart practices themselves.
9. The School Dress Code for students and staff will exclude the wearing of clothing that exposes the shoulders or lower neck.
10. Students will be required to wear sun protective hats (i.e. broad brimmed and bucket) for all outdoor activities during Terms 1 and 4.
11. During Terms 1 and 4 or according to Sunsmart recommendations a "no hat – no play" rule will apply in the playground. Children without hats must stay in the designated area.
12. The school’s uniform supplier will sell broad-brimmed and bucket hats as part of the school uniform.
13. Staff will be requested and encouraged to wear sun protective hats for all outdoor activities.
14. Parents will be encouraged to wear sun protective hats when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

**Resources:**
*Schools of the Future Reference Guide – 4.5.11*
*Executive Memo 99/039*
*Ant-Cancer Council of Victoria – Phone: 9635 5184*