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## 6.12 SUN SMART

DECEMBER 2009

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### 1. STATEMENT

St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College is committed to the promotion of sun-safe behaviour to assist in the minimization of exposure to the harmful effects of the sun by both staff and students.

### 2. RATIONALE

Australia has a high rate of skin cancer. Practicing sun protection in early childhood and adolescence could prevent many skin cancers.

This policy has been developed to ensure that students and staff are protected from over-exposure to the rays of the sun. These practices will be applied to all school activities including sports, and excursions. It is implemented throughout Term 1 and Term 4 of the school year. Evidence suggests that exposure to ultra violet radiation is a significant factor in the incidence of skin cancer and that exposure to the sun in early childhood can increase this risk.

In conjunction with the presentation of the school curriculum, St Mary's Coptic Orthodox College also shares with parents a desire to promote sun safety.

### 3. DEFINITION & OBJECTIVES

Harmful exposure to the sun can result due to lack of sun protective clothing, the failure to apply SPF 15-30 plus sunscreen, or the use of quality shade.

- To increase student and community awareness of skin cancer
- To assist students to develop strategies which encourage responsible decision-making about skin protection
- To work towards a safe school environment
- To encourage, students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high-risk times
- To ensure that parents are informed

### 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

All staff and students are required to promote and adopt sun-safe behaviour to minimize the harmful effects of exposure to the sun.

## 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### The School:

Shall have a supply of appropriate Sun Screen lotion accessible for all staff and student use if required.

The school shall have a brim cap or visor available as part of the school uniform (secondary students).

The school shall have an appropriate hat available as part of the school uniform (primary students).

### All Staff

- are expected to wear a hat when outside.
- when appropriate, wear suitable protective clothing and sun screen.
- are expected to model appropriate sun protective behaviours.
- promote the use of quality shade areas.
- where appropriate educate, raise awareness and promote a sun safe school environment. when dealing with students.
- as role models staff are expected to wear a hat when on playground duty.

### All students (Secondary)

- are encouraged to wear a hat or cap when outside.
- when appropriate, wear suitable protective clothing and apply sun screen.
- are expected to use shaded areas where possible.

### All Students (Primary)

- It is a mandatory expectation to wear a hat when outside (no hat – no play).
- When appropriate, wear suitable clothing and apply sunscreen.
- Are expected to use shaded areas where possible.

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