**Rationale**

The increasing occurrence of skin cancer in Australia is a matter of concern for the whole community. Skin cancer and related skin damage are the result of frequent and unprotected exposure to the sun. Much of the sun exposure that causes later skin damage occurs during childhood.

Parramatta North Public school has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students and staff and this responsibility includes the provision of adequate protection from the sun throughout the school year. Effective school action and preventative education programs will ensure that our school policy makes a significant contribution to community efforts to reduce skin cancer and related skin damage.

**Planning for sun protection**

At Parramatta North Public School we provide a range of effective programs and strategies for sun protection including:

- effective teaching and learning about the need for sun protection at all times, not just during school hours
- strategies are in place to increase the understanding of staff and other school community members about issues relating to effective strategies for skin protection, eg newsletter reminders, school assemblies, school rules, etc
- promotion of sun protection as a health and safety issue rather as a matter of school discipline
- positive role modelling by staff and all members of the school community
- protection from UVR for all outdoor activities (including physical education, carnivals, excursions and sport)
- the wearing of sunglasses is encouraged in those situations where glare and reflected radiance are high

**Students will be encouraged to protect their skin by:**

- reducing their exposure to the sun wherever possible
- wearing broad-brimmed hats which provide adequate protection to the face, neck and ears
- wearing suitable clothing to protect from the sun
- participating in sun protection activities
- using 15+ broad spectrum sunscreens as an adjunct to other sun protection measures
- parents are asked to provide students with sunscreen especially on excursion and sporting activities and carnivals where exposure to the sun may increase

**As a result of the school’s planning for sun protection:**

- students will understand why sun protection is important and will take effective action to protect themselves
- parents, staff and the other school community members will understand the risks of sun exposure and will support the school’s sun protection plan throughout the year.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.