



### Re-Introduction of Beaconsfield Primary Schools Sun Smart Policy

Dear Beacy Parents and Carers,

From the beginning of 2024, we have seen an increase in the number of students wearing baseball/basketball caps as their sun protection while playing on the oval at breaks, and during Sport lessons. As a Primary School, we feel we have the responsibility to instil SunSmart behaviours alongside our parent community.

Beaconsfield has an existing uniform policy that includes the wearing of a wide brimmed hat for outside lessons and play. The information in the letter is no different to what is in place, but with the change being that this will now be enforced across our school. This has been discussed with and has the full support of our P&C and School Board.

#### Why is this important?

- Skin Cancer is the most preventable cancer there is.
- 2 in 3 Australians will develop skin cancer in their lifetime, and every year 2,000 people die from this.
- UV radiation exposure during childhood increases the risk of skin cancer later in life.
- Students are at school while UV levels are at their peak, this means our school is uniquely placed to instil sun protective behaviours to reduce our student's lifetime risk of skin cancer.
- Having this in place will allow our school to renew our SunSmart Schools accreditation. This will give us access to a range of resources and grants to improve our school.
- After the recent heatwaves, it is at the forefront of our minds the importance of protecting our students from unnecessary over exposure to UV radiation.
- A complete school uniform that is enforced, is an important element to maintain fair and positive school culture.

#### What is happening, and when?

From the beginning of Term 2, we will change some of our processes at school, and begin enforcing SunSmart behaviours for our staff and most importantly students. This will mean;

- Students will need to be wearing a wide brimmed hat (preferably Beaconsfield PS hat) to be able to play in our play areas that are in direct sun. Students will also need to wear this hat for all sport and outdoor lessons.
- Sunscreen will be available in every classroom for students to use. This will be communicated by the staff, but staff will not be responsible for the application of any sunscreen. (If your child has allergies to certain sunscreen, you are welcome to bring your own)
- The school will have spare hats available for students to access for playtimes and outdoor lessons if they forget/have not got one yet.
- I would appreciate the support of families in helping us by keeping all "cap style" hats at home, this will make it easier for students to continue wearing the wide brimmed hat throughout the day.
- We have decided to start next term to allow families time to adjust if needed and discuss this as a family.

#### Questions/Concerns

If you have any questions/concerns how this will impact your child, or you need any support, please make time to see me (Mr Edwards) directly, I will be happy to work through anything with you to support your family and/or child.

Yours Sincerely,

Anthony Edwards  
Principal, Beaconsfield Primary School