**Philosophy and Rationale**

This policy affirms the school’s duty of pastoral care. At St Therese, a sun protection policy exists for the safety of the children and staff. This policy operates all year round. The Policy is based upon evidence that the sun’s ultra-violet rays are damaging to the human body and can cause skin cancers.

We believe that students need to be supported to help them choose safe behaviours in the sun. We believe that children will adopt sun-smart practices when:

* they have accurate information to help them understand the dangers of UV radiation
* significant adults in the community provide good example in regard to their own personal protection
* the choice of clothing assists in providing this consistent message and
* the school provides surroundings consistent with our understanding of protection from UV rays.

**Purpose / Aims**

We aim to create an environment where community members understand the damaging effect of ultra-violet rays and are encouraged to make sun-smart choices to protect themselves. We aim to create an environment which positively supports children in making safe choices.
Guidelines

Children must wear their school hats during lessons outside, excursions where children are outside and during recess and lunch.

Students not wearing a hat will be asked to remain inside. Students without hats will not be able to participate in outdoor activities.

Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen to exposed areas during playtimes. Parents are encouraged to supply sunscreen for their children as appropriate. The school also allows long sleeve polo tops to add further protection from the sun.

On extremely hot days, staff will open indoor areas to provide respite from the heat.

The effects of sun damage to our bodies is formally addressed in the Health and Physical Education curriculum. When available, visiting speakers will be invited to help spread the sun-smart message.

Supporting Structures

At St Therese, the staff use hats and sunscreen during duty times for their own protection and also as good modelling for the students.

Our Uniform policy includes hats as a required part of the St Therese Catholic Primary School uniform.

Our Personal Responsibility Policy would see the failure to wear a hat not as an offence, but rather as a decision which has a logical consequence. Therefore, sitting in the shade is not seen as a punishment.

Implementation

- All staff members will be given a copy of this policy.
- All Parents/Caregivers or volunteers who have direct supervision of children will be made aware of this policy.
- All Parents/Caregivers and community members will be informed of this policy via the newsletter.
Resources

- Sun Smart Schools

Review Date

February 2011