Policy Statement
Skin cancer rates in Australia are higher than anywhere else in the world, with two out of three people developing some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. The major cause of skin cancer is exposure to the ultra-violet rays of the sun over many years. Up to 70% of Australians have detectable sun damage of their skin by the age of 14 years. As children spend more time outdoors, it is estimated they receive three times more UVR than adults. Research highlights skin protection, particularly in the first 18 years of life, as a major strategy in the fight against skin cancer.

Balaklava Primary School adopts and promotes active participation in skin protection and management practices.

Ultra-violet Radiation (UVR)
UVR can’t be felt on the skin, but can cause permanent skin damage. This is especially so on days of cooler temperatures when there is a tendency for people to stay outdoors for a long time without protection. However in South Australia Skin Protection strategies are recommended if the UV Reading is above 3. In June and July the UV Readings do not go above 3 and this is generally the case at the end of May and beginning of August. Air temperature is not related to the UVR levels.

Skin damage can still occur when the sky is cloudy as up to 80% of the UVR for the day can still reach our skin. UVR only decreases on days of heavy cloud cover.

Due to the angle of the sun to the earth’s surface, UVR is filtered more during the winter than summer, but enough UVR can still reach us to cause skin damage.

The danger period for UVR is between 10.00 am and 2.00 p.m. (11.00 am and 3.00 p.m. during Daylight Saving.)

Aims & Objectives
The aims of the Sun Smart Policy are to promote among students, staff and parents:

- lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths
- provided ongoing education to promote personal responsibility and a positive attitude towards skin protection
- awareness of the need for environmental changes in schools to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

Roles and Responsibilities
Guidelines require all employers/employees, volunteers and contract workers to abide by OHS&W regulations and BPS site policies.

These include:
- avoiding sunlight between 10.00am – 2.00pm or 11.00am – 3.00pm daylight saving time.
- Where possible work in natural shade or other shade areas eg. trees, verandahs, gazebo etc.
- Create a personal shade zone by wearing either a broad brim (minimum 8cm brim) or a legionnaires hat.

Balaklava Primary School Sun Smart Policy applies to ALL four terms of school, except for the 10 week period commencing Week 4 Term 2 and ending Friday Week 3. The full Sun Smart Policy recommences Week 4 Term 3. (This will alter slightly if the UV Reading exceeds 3.)
General Skin Protection Strategies

Children will:
- Wear school uniforms as they have collars, and sleeves as protection against UVR. Garments which expose the skin are unacceptable.
- Wear school uniform hats whenever they are outside (ie recess, lunch, sport activities, excursions.) During extreme hot or wet weather conditions, children will be inside their classrooms. Baseball caps are not acceptable.
- Remain in the designated covered area (the gazebo) if they do not have their hats at school on the day - No Hat, No Play Policy
- Use a SPF 30+ sun-screen
- Have a sound understanding of skin protection strategies through educational programmes incorporated within the curriculum
- Be encouraged to wear recommended effective sunglasses.

Staff will:
- Act as positive role models by wearing protective hats / use of sunshades / sunglasses / using a SPF 30+ sun-screen and seeking shade wherever possible
- Monitor the wearing of hats throughout the year
- Use individual discretion in scheduling outdoor activities
- Supervise children inside during extreme weather conditions - summer or winter - (refer to Inclement Policy)
- Incorporate programmes on skin protection in their curriculum and in a positive way, regularly reinforce the Sun Smart Policy
- Encourage adults working at the school to wear hats when in direct sunlight
- Inform parents of the Sun Smart Policy when enrolling their children and regularly reinforce the Policy through the school newsletter.

Principal will:
- Discuss with staff the need to take appropriate protective measures when outdoors.
- Re-arrange events to minimise exposure to UV radiation
- Arrange for eligible employees, the purchase of sun protection equipment through DECS
- The Principal or delegate will check the UV Reading daily during the Low UV Optional Hatless Period.

Parents will:
- Provide a school uniform hat for their child’s use
- Be encouraged to provide a SPF 30+ sun-screen and consider providing sunglasses for their child’s use
- Be encouraged to practise skin protection behaviour themselves and act as positive role models.

Our School Community is committed to:
- Working towards providing shelters and appropriate shade trees within the school environment.
- Actively promoting and role modelling the Sun Smart Policy so that we can ensure that all children attending our school are actively involved in personal skin protection throughout their lives.