



Nurturing Our Future - Growing Together
Kia atawhai aa mua - Kia tipu ngatahi

Sun Safe Policy N.A.G. 5

Review Date: May 2021

Objectives / Aims

Skin cancer is the most common cancer affecting New Zealanders. Skin cancers are primarily caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. SunSmart behaviour is particularly important for children as the potential for developing skin cancer during their lives is determined to a substantial degree by their sun exposure in childhood.

Our sun protection policy, which applies during Terms 1 and 4 (including September when children are outdoors for extended periods - e.g. sports days), has the following aims:

1. To protect our students and staff from excessive exposure to the sun's UV radiation while they are at school by providing a safe physical learning and teaching environment for all students, staff and visitors to our school, by using sun safe practises.
2. To educate and raise awareness to the whole school community about the harmful effects of excessive exposure to the sun's UV radiation and how to keep themselves safe.
3. To reduce the risk of sun damage while in the school's care.
4. To develop healthy strategies and habits for being outdoors in our New Zealand climate.

Statements:

During Terms 1 and 4, the school models SunSmart practices and ensures that staff and students take the following steps to protect themselves. Our school will:

To educate and raise awareness about sun safe practices and its risks:

- Education will be provided to all children about the risks of sun exposure and skin cancer risks, delivered each year in an age appropriate way.
- Teachers and staff will act as role models for sun safety.

To reduce the risk of sun damage while in the School's care, and develop healthy strategies and habits:

- Require all students to wear broad-brimmed (minimum 7.5cm) legionnaire or bucket hats (minimum 6cm and deep crown) whenever they are outside and involved in school activities. Students not wearing a hat are required to play in allocated shade areas.
- In Terms 1 & 4 lunch eating areas will be located under our large shade trees.
- Sun Safe clothing is encouraged for all when at camp or moments when uniform is not a requirement, with shoulders and back covered. Students at risk of high exposure will be asked to change where appropriate or play in shaded areas.
- Everyone to have access to sun cream, SPF 30+, available in every classroom and admin area. EOTC and Outdoor Education experiences during Terms 1 & 4 to have sun cream available for all.
- During long periods outside in Terms 1 & 4, Taupiri children will be reminded and monitored putting on sunscreen, Pirongia and Maungatautari children will be reminded and directed to put on sunscreen.
- All children encouraged to wear sun cream and rash shirts when involved in our swimming programme.
- Providing additional shade will be considered when altering and or developing buildings and areas of the grounds.
- Our school Information booklet and web site information to outline the importance of sun safe clothing, wearing our school hat, applying sun cream each morning and encouraging children to have their own sun cream in their bags for re application during the school day.
- Allow children access to indoor shade at lunchtime eg library, TCC for organised sport when available and appropriate.
- Our school, where possible, will plan outdoor activities to minimise sun exposure. Shade will be utilised where possible and our school tent and sun shade covers used when possible and sun protection will be included in the risk management plan developed for education outside of the classroom (EOTC) activities.
- A supply of loan hats will be kept for those children who do not have a hat available on any given day, to allow them to take part in outside activities planned by the teacher.
- The SunSmart policy will be regularly publicised and promoted in class programmes, at assemblies, and in the school newsletter.
- Encourage staff, parents and caregivers to role model appropriate SunSmart behaviour when they are outside and involved in school activities, by wearing hats and making use of shade wherever possible.

Supporting and evaluating SunSmart behaviours

- The board of trustees and principal will review the SunSmart Policy at least every three years, including making suggestions or improvement.
- Ensure on-going assessment of SunSmart behaviour, shade and curriculum emphasis.

Sunscreen should not be the only primary form of sun protection. The highest clear-sky UVR levels occur around the middle of the day. Our aim is to consider adequate shade when planning trips and providing our own shade (umbrellas or tents) where necessary.

Date ratified: _____

Principal: _____

Chairperson: _____