

## PROCEDURE 13: SUNSMART

### Rationale

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, has two main aims:

- To protect our students and staff from excessive exposure to the sun's UV radiation while they are at school.
- To educate the whole school community about the harmful effects of excessive exposure to the sun's UV radiation and how to keep themselves safe.

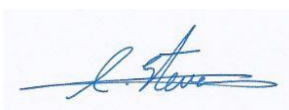
### **Guideline: Being SunSmart**

During Terms 1 and 4, between 9am and 4pm, the school models SunSmart practices and ensures that staff and students take the following steps to protect themselves. Our school will:

- Require all students to wear hats (preferably broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hats) whenever they are outside and involved in school activities. Students not wearing a hat are required to play in the allocated shade areas or borrow a hat from the spare provision.
- Encourage the use of broad-spectrum SPF 30+ sunscreen. The school has sunscreen for student use.
- Encourage children to wear clothing that protects the skin from the sun, (eg: shirts with sleeves and collars).
- Encourage staff, parents, and caregivers to role model appropriate SunSmart behaviour when they are outside and involved in school activities, by wearing hats, wearing sunscreen, and making use of shade whenever possible.
- Try to schedule outdoor activities whenever possible to minimise exposure to the sun and include sun protection in the risk management plan developed for 'Education Outside of the Classroom (EOTC) activities.
- Include SunSmart education programmes in the curriculum at all levels every year.
- Regularly publicise and promote SunSmart - (eg: through newsletters).

### **Supporting and evaluating SunSmart behaviours**

- The School Board and Principal will review the SunSmart Policy at least every three years, including making suggestions or improvement.
- The school will work to increase the availability of shade, especially where students congregate.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to use available shade.
- Where possible, outdoor activities will be held in shaded areas, or scheduled at times of the day when the sun's UV rays are less intense.



PRINCIPAL

Dated: February 1, 2022