

Policy: Sun Protection

Policy Statement

Jireh Christian School recognises that New Zealand has among the highest melanoma rates in the world. Excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Getting sunburnt in childhood and adolescence will increase the risk of melanoma and other skin cancers in later life. The Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring sun safe practices are in place for the safety of students and staff.

This sun protection policy will apply during Terms 1 and 4 (especially between 10 am and 4 pm). However, from the beginning of September UVR levels are increasing. Therefore, sun protection should be used in September when staff and students are outdoors for extended periods (e.g. sports' days).

Procedural Guidelines

- Students are required to wear uniform hats (either bucket hats or caps) when they are outside – for example, during interval, lunch, P.E. and activities.
- A “no hat, stay in the shade” rule is standard.
- Sunscreen will be available for students at outdoor activities, particularly at sports' days and similar events.
- Staff members are encouraged to role model sun safe behaviour, for example wearing hats within the school grounds and during outdoor school activities.
- Sun safe expectations will be publicised and reinforced through newsletters and at parent meetings.
- Where appropriate, sun safe education and activities will be part of the health curriculum.
- Where possible, existing shade areas will be improved and extended; shade could be in the form of shade cloths, verandahs and natural shade provided by trees.
- Teachers are to consider ways to mitigate the effect of sun exposure and burn when completing Risk Analysis and Management systems (RAMs) for school trips.
- Hold outdoor activities in areas with plenty of shade whenever possible.
- The Principal is to ensure on-going assessment of sun safe behaviour, shade and curriculum emphasis.

Review schedule: Triennially

ADOPTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date 25th May 2021

Chairperson **M Causley**

Reviewed Date