

## **SUN SAFETY PROCEDURE**

School Vision: Developing the Character of God - Academic Excellence

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield. The Lord bestows favour and honour. **Psalms 84:11***

### **Rationale:**

Excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. New Zealand, along with Australia, has the highest melanoma rates in the world. One or more episodes of sunburn in childhood and adolescence have been shown to increase the risk of melanoma later in life.

This sun protection policy will apply during Terms 1 and 4, (especially between 10am and 3pm). However, from beginning of September UVR levels are increasing, therefore, sun protection should be used in September when children are outdoors for extended periods e.g. sports days). During the winter months sun protection **is used as required**.

This procedure is adopted from **9 March 2020** so that children attending the Rotorua Seventh-Day Adventist School are protected from harmful UV radiation from the sun.

### **Behaviour**

As part of general SunSmart strategies, during Terms 1 and 4, between 10am and 3pm, our school will:

- Require children to wear the school uniform navy broad-brimmed (min 7.5cms), when they are outside (e.g. interval, lunch, sport, excursions and activities) during Terms 1 and 4.
- **Provide extra hats for children to borrow if appropriate.**
- Implement a "No Hat, Play in the Shade" policy. Children without hats are to play under shade sail or indoors.
- Work with wider school community to promote **sun safety messages**.
- Encourage children to wear clothing that protects the skin from the sun (e.g. sleeves and collars).
- Encourage staff to role model SunSmart behaviour, particularly the use of appropriate hats, within the school grounds and during outdoor school activities.
- Regularly publicise and reinforce the SunSmart Policy, for example, through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities.
- Inform parents of the SunSmart Policy at enrolment, especially the use of appropriate hats, clothing, SPF 30+ sunscreen, and encourage parents to practise SunSmart behaviour themselves.

### **Curriculum**

Incorporate SunSmart education and activities at all levels when delivering the curriculum.

### **Environment**

- Work towards developing and improving existing shade, particularly in areas where students congregate. Shade can be both built and natural (e.g. constructed shelter and trees).

- Whenever possible schedule outdoor activities and sports events before 10am.
- Organise outdoor activities to be held in areas with plenty of shade whenever possible.

### **Reinforcement and evaluation**

- Ensure ongoing assessment of SunSmart behaviour, shade provision, and curriculum emphasis
- Review of the SunSmart policy by the Board of Trustees and Principal at least every 3 years.
- Sunscreen should not be the sole or primary form of protection.
- The Cancer Society recommends holding school excursions early in the day to cut down the exposure to UV radiation. Plan them for venues where adequate shade is available or alternatively provide your own shade by taking umbrellas or tents.

FORMULATED BY: Rotorua Seventh-Day Adventist School Board of Trustees

APPROVED: Board Chair, Victoria Finch \_\_\_\_\_

BOT REVIEWED: **April 2020**  
26 October 2016  
25 September 2013