



TIRIMOANA SCHOOL

SUN SAFETY POLICY

RATIONALE:

This school recognises the high incidence of melanoma in the New Zealand population and that overexposure to the sun during childhood is a significant cause. The effects of over-exposure can be minimised by developing a sun safety policy as part of the school's requirements to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students.

PURPOSES:

1. To increase student and community awareness of melanoma and provide practical ways of protecting skin.
2. To develop strategies encouraging responsible decision making about skin protection.
3. To develop a safe school environment which provides shade for students and staff.
4. To encourage students and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen for high risk times such as sport, lunchtimes, camps and trips.

GUIDELINES:

1. Parents will be required to purchase a school sun hat.
2. Children will wear the compulsory school hat when outside after 10am during terms 1 and 4.
3. Children not wearing a hat are required to play in allocated shade areas.
4. The school uniform, with sleeves and collars, provides protection from the sun. Parents will be reminded about the benefits of wearing similarly protective clothing on mufti days during terms 1 and 4.
5. Parents will be encouraged to provide sunscreen (SPF 30+) for their children.
6. Parents will be given information about the school's sun safety policy by way of newsletters.
7. Sunscreen (SPF 30+) will be available at the office for children's use before going out into the sun.
8. During terms 1 and 4, PE, sports and other outdoor events/activities will be timetabled in the morning or will take place under the canopy.
9. The school will develop shade areas by planting shade trees and constructing sun shade areas.
10. Teachers will include lessons on sun safety each year as part of the Health and PE curriculum.
11. The school will recognise Daffodil Day annually to promote awareness of melanoma and other cancers.
12. All staff and students will be informed of the Sun Safety policy and its intended practices.
13. Staff are encouraged to act as role models by practicing SunSmart behaviours.
14. The sun protection policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (e.g. camps, excursions, sporting events).

CONCLUSION:

Active and responsible initiatives to promote sun safety awareness will assist in protecting students and staff from over-exposure to the sun.