



Hobsonville School

Next review: Term 3 2025

Sun Protection

Hobsonville School promotes sun protection practices to reduce the risk of sun-related harm to students and staff as part of our commitment to providing a safe place to learn and work. We take measures to protect our students and staff from overexposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) while they are at school or involved with off-site school activities, including sports and Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC).

We inform and remind our school community (students, staff, parents/caregivers, coaches, volunteers, etc) about our sun protection practices (below) and expectations.

We educate our students about sun safety by communicating age-appropriate information about sun (UVR) exposure and protection. We provide this information annually in class programmes for every year level.

Board responsibilities

As part of our responsibility to provide a safe school and workplace, the board:

- ensures ongoing assessment of sun protection practices (e.g. shade provision and sun safety education)
- maintains current shade structures (natural and built), and prioritises shade provision in **property planning**, as appropriate
- considers sun protection when reviewing the school uniform/dress code
- reviews the sun protection policy at least every three years.

Every term, the principal assures the board that identified hazards are being monitored and/or controlled, and that measures are being re-evaluated to check their adequacy. This includes our sun protection practices as appropriate. See **Self-Review and Board Assurances**.

Timing of sun protection practices

Our core sun protection practices (below) apply during school hours and/or activities in terms 1 and 4. During terms 2 and 3 when UVI is generally lower, students do not normally need to wear hats, apply sunscreen, or stay in the shade, unless they are outdoors for an extended period of time, or are near highly reflective surfaces such as snow. The **UV index** is a useful tool for understanding when sun protection is required.

Sun protection practices

- We ensure that sun protection is considered for all outdoor school events and activities, on-site and off-site, including sports and EOTC. We try to plan outdoor activities to minimise exposure to the sun (UVR) during the summer (i.e. we consider timing and use of shade).
- Students and staff are encouraged to make use of shaded areas when outside. Students eat lunch in the shade or inside, as appropriate.
- We encourage students and staff to keep hydrated by drinking water.

- We require students to wear hats that shade the face, neck, and ears, whenever they are outside and involved in school activities. Students at school without a hat must remain in an allocated shaded area or inside at break times. Hats must be broad-brimmed (min. 7.5 cm). These hats provide significant protection to the eyes.
- We encourage students and staff to protect themselves with broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen of at least SPF30.
- We encourage students to wear clothing that protects the skin (e.g. long sleeve tops, rash tops) when at risk of extended sun exposure (such as at sports days, school camps, and picnics), or when swimming outdoors.
- Staff are encouraged to model appropriate sun protection practices.

We aim to prevent sun-related harm. Any adverse events, such as sunburn or heat-stroke, may be recorded to help manage student and staff health and to collect information for risk management. See **Recording and Reporting Accidents, Injuries, and Illness** [↗](#).

Related topics

- **Managing Injuries and Illness**
- **Recording and Reporting Accidents, Injuries, and Illness**
- **EOTC Risk Assessment and Management**
- **Uniform/Dress Code**

Legislation

- Education and Training Act 2020
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

Resources

- **SunSmart** [↗](#) (Information and resources from the Cancer Society of New Zealand)
 - **UVNZ app** [↗](#)
 - **Running a SunSmart event** [↗](#)
 - **SunSmart Schools** [↗](#) (SunSmart accreditation is only for primary and intermediate schools but this Cancer Society site has lots of useful information)
- WorkSafe | Mahi Haumarua Aotearoa: **Protecting workers from solar UV radiation** [↗](#)

Acknowledgement

The Cancer Society helped review the generic SchoolDocs Sun Protection policy in 2022 and SchoolDocs appreciates their valuable input.

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