

## SUN & UV PROTECTION POLICY

### Rationale

To create a healthy and safe environment at Gisborne Secondary College, minimising overexposure to reduce skin and eye damage and skin cancer risk.

To encourage sensible sun & UV protection behaviours by staff and students through education and role-modelling

To protect staff and students from harm caused by over-exposure to UV radiation.

### Policy Statement

This policy is designed to:

- Ensure that all staff and students maintain a healthy level of UV exposure
- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above.
- Encourage safe UV exposure whenever UV Index levels are below 3.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times.
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's UV radiation policy.

### Implementation of our policy:

The staff of Gisborne Secondary College are committed to a whole school approach to Sun & UV Protection.

#### Education

Gisborne Secondary College will run appropriate and relevant education programs on Sun & UV Protection across year levels.

The college will monitor UV Levels during the year.

#### Uniform

The summer (terms 1 and 4) uniform policy includes a loose fitting close-weave cotton or cotton/polyester blend shirt with sleeves and a collar that fits close to the neck, above the collarbone for both standard uniform and sports uniform.

The summer (terms 1 and 4) uniform policy includes a top-of-knee length skirt and shorts as well as full length pants for standard uniform and both top-of-knee and mid-thigh length shorts as well as full track pants for sports uniform.

The uniform policy includes, and all students and staff are expected to wear, school approved bucket hats, broad brimmed hats or similar that shade their face, neck and ears when outside and exposed to the sun during terms 1 and 4. The college will ensure such items are available from the Uniform stockist.

Rash vests or T-shirts or similar are compulsory for students waiting to compete in outdoor swimming events.

Students and staff will be encouraged to wear close fitting, wrap around sunglasses (AS 1067) – Categories 2, 3 or 4 when outside.

#### Sunscreen

Broad spectrum SPF 30+ water resistant sunscreen will be a part of each student's booklist as well as being available throughout the college and on excursions and camps and in staff areas for use by both students and staff.

Staff will encourage the use of sunscreen by students, will be encouraged to model sunscreen use, and will provide time for students to apply sunscreen before going outside.

Information about sunscreen and the correct use of sunscreen will be displayed about the college and will be provided to the community via the school newsletter.

Consideration to sun protection will be given when planning all outdoor events including assemblies, excursions and sporting events, and where possible events will be scheduled earlier in the morning, later in the afternoon or indoors.

### **Shade**

School Council will plan for the ongoing provision of shade structures for students as practicable and within compliance.

Temporary shade structures will be erected at events such as swimming and athletic sports if required, and shade will be a consideration when planning outdoor activities and excursions.

Students will be encouraged to utilise shade when outside during terms 1 and 4, however, if they are not wearing a hat and have not taken proper sun protection precautions, they will be directed to position themselves under the shade.

The college newsletter, school assemblies, and staff meetings will be used to highlight and reinforce the Sun Protection policy.

The Sun Protection policy will appear on the school's intranet and website and will form part of each staff member's induction program.

### **Encouragement and Compliance**

Staff are asked to use encouragement strategies with students to ensure compliance with this policy. Examples of appropriate strategies include:

- Principal's Awards for Safe Behaviour
- Education
- Reminders at assemblies, before break times, in mentor group sessions
- <Other strategies formed through the consultation process>

Appropriate sections of this policy are managed through the college's Clear Rules Policy. Eg. Uniform, refusal

Should a student or a family refuse to comply with any or all of the sun-protection implementation measures contained in this policy, parents and students may be asked to sign a waiver of rights to legal or civil action for any future harm that may arise from refusing to comply.

### **Evaluation**

The Assistant Principal with Responsibility for Student Wellbeing & Engagement will ensure that School Council and staff review this policy in collaboration with appropriate student consultation as part of the school's 3 year review process.

### **References:**

SunSmart UV Policy

Retrieved from: <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/downloads/communities/secondary-school/sec-school-uv-policy-template.pdf>