



5.15 Shady School

New Zealand has one of the highest melanoma rates in the world. As an educational organisation Parnell District School has a responsibility to develop

- awareness of the health risks associated with over-exposure to the sun, especially in childhood and adolescence;
- knowledge of ways to avoid over exposure; and
- attitudes of self-care and protection.

The school also recognises the need to

- promote learning about sun safety through the curriculum;
- encourage safe behaviour;
- work towards providing a shady environment; and
- provide a lead in promoting community awareness.

Guidelines

1. Shady School procedures are to be reinforced regularly in a positive way through newsletters, parent meetings, student and teacher activities. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to ensure their child has a full brimmed sun hat for school use and appropriate clothing.
2. **Through the months of Terms 1 and 4** children will:
 - wear a full brimmed sun hat for P.E., sports, break times;
 - use natural shaded areas during outdoor activities;
 - be encouraged to sit under shaded areas to eat lunch;
 - be encouraged to apply sunscreen;
 - play in shade when they are not wearing a hat;
 - use t shirts, rash vests or suits when at risk of extended exposure to the sun; and
 - require children not wearing suitable clothing to remain in the shade.
3. Staff will role model appropriate sun safe behaviour when on duty and taking PE/sport by wearing hats and making use of shade where available.
4. When possible, outdoor activities and sports events will be scheduled before 11.00am to avoid the extreme mid-day sun. However, it must also be recognised that timetabling facilities (e.g. use of local swimming pool) will affect this.
5. Health / Science / Topic studies will include programmes on melanoma awareness and prevention, personal responsibility and self-care.
6. The Board of Trustees will make resourcing available to implement the provision for a sun block bottle for every classroom.
7. The use of natural shade in the school is to be maximised. Planning for shade in the future development of school grounds is essential, with the provision for tree planting or alternative shade where necessary.