



Aquinas College

183 Pyes Pa Road, RD3, Tauranga 3173, NZ

OPERATIONAL POLICY

Sun Safety

<i>Latest Revision</i>	<i>March 2023</i>
<i>Reviewer</i>	<i>Principal</i>
<i>Next Revision</i>	<i>February 2025</i>
<i>Associated Governance Policies</i>	<i>5.9 Health and Safety</i>

INTRODUCTION

The policy aims to uphold the health and safety of our students by ensuring that they are protected from harmful UV radiation from the sun.

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.

Throughout New Zealand sun protection is required from September to April inclusive, especially between the hours of 10am and 4pm. Therefore, this policy applies only during Terms 1 and 4.

PROCEDURE

- 1. All students and staff will be encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures to ensure they are well protected.*
- 2. Students and staff are encouraged to use SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen. Sunscreen is available from the Office and Gymnasium. For school events such as sports days, sunscreen is provided.*
- 3. Students are encouraged to wear hats at break times and during outside activities. The College has a bucket hat and baseball hat as part of the Summer Uniform.*
- 4. The College provides a number of shaded areas for students at break times. Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside. Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to stay in the shade.*
- 5. Our SunSmart policy is considered when planning all outdoor events, eg. camps, excursions and sporting events. Where possible, we have outdoor activities or events earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon, or we use indoor venues.*
- 6. Sun protection and skin cancer education awareness is included in the College's curriculum.*