# Operational Policy: Sun Safe (NAG 5)

## Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ

## Statement of Intent:

The Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ) recognises that getting sunburnt in childhood and adolescence can increase the risk of melanoma and other skin cancers later in life and that skin cancer is a major health risk for New Zealanders, including outdoor workers, who are often exposed to excessive levels of solar ultraviolet radiation (UVR). BLENNZ therefore has a responsibility to ensure all ākonga and staff for whom it is responsible are protected as far as is possible from the effects of excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from the sun.

This sun protection policy will apply during the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm from 1st September to 30th April inclusive.

## Policy Requirements:

1. BLENNZ requires all ākonga to wear sun hats when they are outside. It is recommended that these be broad-brimmed (minimum 7.5cm), legionnaire or bucket hats (minimum 6cm brim and a deep crown).

2. If ākonga arrive at their programme without an appropriate hat, BLENNZ will provide washable hats for ākonga to borrow.

3. Ākonga will be encouraged to wear clothing that protects their skin from the sun.

4. Ākonga will be taught to be sun smart. Once this has occurred BLENNZ will implement a “no hat, play in the shade” policy that requires ākonga who refuse to wear their hat, or who have bare shoulders, to play in the shade or indoors.

5. Ākonga who have eye conditions that require them to wear sunglasses, will be asked to provide these. The sunglasses will be worn when ākonga are outside. Wherever possible sunglasses should meet the AS/NZ Standard 1067:2016.

6. Sunscreen (SPF 30+) will be made available to ākonga and staff at outdoor activities, organised sports days or similar activities both on and off BLENNZ sites. Sunscreen needs to be reapplied in terms of medical or manufacturer directions. Sunscreen needs to conform to standard AS/NZS 2604:2012.

7. Outdoor activities will be planned to minimise exposure to the sun wherever possible. Shade areas will be utilised as much as possible or shade provided, where possible, in the form of fixed or portable shade structures.

8. BLENNZ will include a sun exposure assessment in the Risk Analysis and Management system for any Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) plan for outdoor activity.

9. When enrolling ākonga in any BLENNZ programme parents/caregivers will be:

* Informed of this policy
* Asked to provide a suitable named hat for their child
* Asked to provide a SPF30+ broad spectrum sunscreen
* Required to give permission for staff to administer sunscreen
* Encouraged to practice sun smart behaviour themselves
* Asked to provide appropriate sunglasses for ākonga who require them.

10. SunSmart education and activities will be included in the BLENNZ curriculum at all levels.

11. BLENNZ staff will model sun safe behaviour. This includes using sunscreen and wearing appropriate clothing and hats. If safety goggles are required these must conform to standard AS/NZS 1337:2010. Staff must take all practicable steps to ensure their own safety when working in the sun including cooperating with all measures introduced by BLENNZ to minimise the risks associated with exposure to solar UVR.

12. This policy will be publicised through BLENNZ newsletters and its website.

## Supporting Documents:

[Ministry of Education - Keeping Children Safe in the Sun](http://education.govt.nz/early-childhood/child-wellbeing-and-participation/wellbeing-in-ece/keeping-children-safe-in-the-sun/)

[SunSmart Schools website link](http://www.sunsmartschools.org.nz/)

[Cancer Society website](http://www.cancernz.org.nz/)

[AS/NZS 1067:2016](https://shop.standards.govt.nz/catalog/1067.1%3A2016%28AS%7CNZS%29/view)

[AS/NZS 2604:2012](https://shop.standards.govt.nz/catalog/2604%3A2012%28AS%7CNZS%29/view)

[AS/NZS1337:2010](https://shop.standards.govt.nz/catalog/1337.1:2010(AS%7CNZS)/scope)

Approved: 

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Next Review: 2026