



Sun Safety Policy

Rationale

Year-round sun protection is important for all children and young people in Queensland as research demonstrates that high ultraviolet radiation (UVR) exposure in childhood and adolescence significantly increases the risk of developing skin cancer.

Our school aims to educate our students about being sun-safe in order to develop important, life-long, healthy habits, and acknowledges the important role adults play during and outside school hours to reinforce sun-safety with children and young people.

In implementing this policy, our school and community recognise that:

- the policy applies to all school and school-related activities and events;
- the strategies are to be implemented during the whole school day and year-round; and
- a combination of sun-safe strategies is more effective than a single approach.

Date of commencement: January 2022

Review date: December 2022

Aims

Corinda State High School endeavours to minimise the exposure of its students and staff to harmful UV radiation from the sun through:

- enforcement of a sun-safe dress code
- a focus on providing appropriate and sufficient shade facilities
- education within the curriculum to develop awareness and foster self-responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection.

A proactive risk management system ensuring sun protection is managed effectively for all school activities.

Element	Strategies
<p>Clothing requirements</p>	<p>Students are required to wear protective clothing, including appropriate hats, when outdoors during the school day and during school-related activities (for example, excursions/camps) to reduce students' exposure to the sun, including the following strategies:</p> <p>Hats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are required to wear appropriate hats when outdoors. The only exceptions when playing sport are when a hat interferes with activity skills and therefore poses a risk to students' safety; or when wearing a hat is not possible because other headwear is required to be worn for religious or safety reasons. Under these circumstances, students may remove their hats for the duration of the activity, ensuring they have applied sunscreen to uncovered skin (ideally 20 minutes) prior to participating. • Our school uniform hats are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ broad-brimmed formal hats, to be worn with formal uniform only ○ bucket hats ○ caps.



Element	Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff remind students to wear hats when outdoors. • Spare clean school hats are available for students to borrow if they forget their hat for curriculum activities (HPE/Agriculture). • Parents/carers are encouraged through social media and newsletter items to have their children bring their hats to school. <p>Sunglasses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage students to wear sunglasses where it is safe and practicable to do so. <p>Swim shirts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are required to wear swim shirts/rash vests during all water-based activities occurring at outdoor venues, except during their race/s at competitions and carnivals.
Shade provision and use	<p>Our school maximises the use of available shade for outdoor activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports activities are rotated during the week between the classroom and outdoors. • Temporary shade structures are used as necessary for outdoor events, for example, Athletics Day, Open Day and Cross Country.
Education	<p>Our school provides educational programs on sun-safety and preventative measures through the following strategies:</p> <p>Curriculum, teaching and learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun-safety is formally taught as part of the implementation of the Australian Curriculum through Health and Physical Education • Staff include the risk of exposure to UVR in their curriculum activity risk assessments for outdoor activities, which includes ensuring that adequate shade is available for outdoor activities where possible, for example, using temporary shade structures. <p>Incidental teaching and promoting sun-safe behaviours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidental teaching of personal sun-safety strategies occurs in all year levels as part of the school routine on a regular basis, for example, through reminders to students to wear hats and apply sunscreen. <p>Staff professional development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are informed about the school's Sun Safety Policy and its requirements on induction.
Sunscreen provision	<p>Our school recognises the importance of sunscreen use as a sun-safe measure and implements the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for student use. • Parents/carers are encouraged through social media and newsletter items to have their children apply sunscreen before school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/carers are encouraged to provide sunscreen for their child if they don't wish their child to use the school's sunscreen.



Element	Strategies
Modelling sun-safe behaviours	<p>Our school promotes the importance of parents/carers, teachers, ancillary staff, volunteers and other adult supervisors as role models for students using the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and P&C members are encouraged to consider the use of shade, sun-safe hats and clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen when doing their duties, running outside activities, and when on excursions/camps. • Staff are provided with a school staff bucket hat to wear when outdoors. • Parents/carers are encouraged to have their children apply sunscreen before they come to school and provide personal sunscreen for their children to use at school.
Cost considerations	<p>The department provides funding for sun-safety using the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School funding is allocated annually to enable the purchase of sunscreen for each class for the whole school year. • Costs for sunscreen will be recovered in line with the Requests for Voluntary Financial Contributions procedure.
Additional strategies	<p>Other strategies our school uses to be sun-safe include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunscreen stations are set up at sports carnivals and swimming carnivals.

Implementation

- The school will inform parents of the Sun Safety Policy when a child enrolls.
- The Sun Safety Policy will be available on the school website.
- The school will seek ongoing support from parents for the policy and its implementation through the newsletter.
- All new staff will be informed of the Sun Safety Policy at their health and safety induction.
- Incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum.

Expectations of Students

Students should:

- be aware of the school's Sun Safety Policy
- wear a hat when outdoors
- take responsibility for their own health and safety by being sun-safe, and comply with school requirements and using 30+ sunscreen and wearing a hat and sun glasses where possible
- when practicable, use shaded or covered areas when outdoors
- act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of sun-safe behaviour
- participate in sun-safe education programs.



Expectations of Staff

Staff should:

- carry out a risk assessment for any outdoor activity and/or follow the UV protection controls established in the risk management plan
- remind students of sun-safe behaviour as required
- act as good role models with respect to sun-safe behaviour.

Expectations of Parents

Parents should:

- provide the components of the school's sun-safe uniforms for their child, including the appropriate hat
- provide their child with adequate 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen, and encourage them to use it
- act as positive role models by practising sun-safe behaviour
- support the school's Sun Safety Policy.