



Corrigin District High School Sun Protection Policy



This policy applies to all outdoor school activities on and off-site and is considered in the planning of all outdoor events.

Rationale

Too much ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. More than two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime. As the sun's UV radiation (which cannot be seen or felt) is the major cause of skin cancer, most skin cancers can be prevented by using sun protection measures whenever UV levels are three or higher.

Purpose

Given school hours fall within peak UV periods of the day, this comprehensive evidence-informed policy provides guidelines on effective UV protection strategies.

This SunSmart policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support our school's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

Legislation and standards

- [Duty of Care](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#): Sch.5 Reg. 1 (1.2)

Implementation

Daily sun protection times are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology for the time-of-day UV levels are predicted to reach 3 or higher, based on location. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. To assist with the implementation of this policy, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the [SunSmart widget](#) on the school's website/intranet, [free SunSmart app](#), sunsmart.com.au or bom.gov.au.

The sun protection measures listed in this policy are used for all outdoor activities **during the daily local sun protection times**.



Procedures

1. Physical environment

Shade: *Seek shade*

- The school council/board ensures there is enough shade (natural, built, temporary) available in the school grounds, particularly in high-use areas– for example where students have lunch, canteen, popular play spaces/equipment, assemblies, sports and outdoor lessons
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities and excursions.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside
- The school council/board ensures shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.

2. Social-emotional environment

School uniform/dress code

The school's uniform/dress code for students and staff applies to all outdoor events on and off-site including PE and sports lessons, interschool sports activities, excursions, camps and free dress days.

Clothing: *Slip on sun protective clothing*

- Both the school uniform and dress code include:
 - Cool, loose-fitting, sun protective clothing made of densely woven fabric
 - Shirts with collars and elbow-length sleeves
 - Longer-style skirts, shorts and pants.
- Students without appropriate covering clothing will be asked to use shaded areas or suitable areas protected from the sun

Hats: *Slap on a sun protective hat*

- All students wear broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hats that protect their face, head, neck and ears, whenever they are outside.
- All staff wear a hat (of their choosing) whenever they are outside.
- Students without an appropriate hat will be asked to use shaded areas or suitable areas protected from the sun and in exceptional circumstances, will be provided with a spare hat.

Sunscreen: *Slap on sunscreen*

- The school supplies SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and students to use.
- SPF30 or higher is included on the school's personal items list each year.
- The school community is educated about the correct use of sunscreen and the level of protection it provides.

Sunglasses: *Slide on sunglasses*

Where practical, students and staff are encouraged to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

3. School and community partnerships

Families and visitors

- For their own safety and to reinforce our school's sun protection strategies, families, visitors and volunteers are also asked to:
 - wear a sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
 - apply SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen; and
 - seek shade whenever possible.

4. School curriculum

Learning

- Sun protection and UV safety education is incorporated into the curriculum for all year levels K-10.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures at the school.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through a variety of channels such as newsletters, school website/intranet/noticeboard, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

Monitoring and review

- The school council, staff and students/SRC monitor and review the effectiveness of our SunSmart policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.
- SunSmart policy updates and requirements will be made available to staff, families, students and visitors.
- The school's SunSmart policy is easily accessible to staff, students and parents via the Corrigin DHS website.
- Our school is committed to our SunSmart membership and complete a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/advice-for/schools-early-childhood/renew-your-sunsmart-membership>
- As registered SunSmart members, we have submitted a copy of our policy to SunSmart and commit to implementing the sun protection measures as documented.