

SunSmart Policy

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SUNCOAST
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Approved by: Leadership Team | Principal 8 February 2024

Revised Date: 01/09/2008 | 06/09/2010 | 23/12/2012 | 18/09/2014 | 09/10/2018 | 1 November 2020

Review Date: 8 February 2026

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Purpose

The purpose of the SunSmart Policy is to provide staff and students with the guidelines for protecting skin from the dangers of exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun whilst attending Suncoast Christian College ('the College').

Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolled at the College and staff employed at the College.

Rationale

Queensland has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, around 80% are skin cancers. Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. Given that students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, schools play a major role in both minimising students' UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is a result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows that severe sunburn contributes to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.

Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are highest during the hours that children are at school. As children will spend a portion of their day outdoors, we are committed to protecting them from harmful effects of the sun.

With this in mind the College realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

Aims

The policy aims to:

- provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection;
- provide environments that support SunSmart practices; and
- create and awareness of the need to reschedule outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices.

Procedures

The College recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. This policy will therefore be implemented throughout the year.

The purpose of this SunSmart policy is to ensure that staff take all reasonable steps to help protect students attending the College from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

The College Commitment

The College will:

- inform parents of the SunSmart policy when enrolling student/s;
- include reference to the SunSmart policy statement in the Parent Handbook;
- seek to increase the amount of shade in the school grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees;
- incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the school curriculum;
- encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour;
- seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation, through newsletters, parent meetings and handbook;
- adopt strategies to maximize the number of students and staff wearing hats that protect the face, neck and ears;
- Provide SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to all classrooms for use when involved in outdoor activities;
- require students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times;
- ensure that SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is included in the school sports kits;
- have SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen listed with other items that students are required to buy for the school year; and
- review the SunSmart policy every three years.

The College Expectations

Parents/Guardians of are expected to:

- provide the appropriate College hat for enrolled student/s and ensure this is worn to and from school;
- apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for school;
- act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour; and
- support the school's SunSmart policy and help design and regularly update the policy.

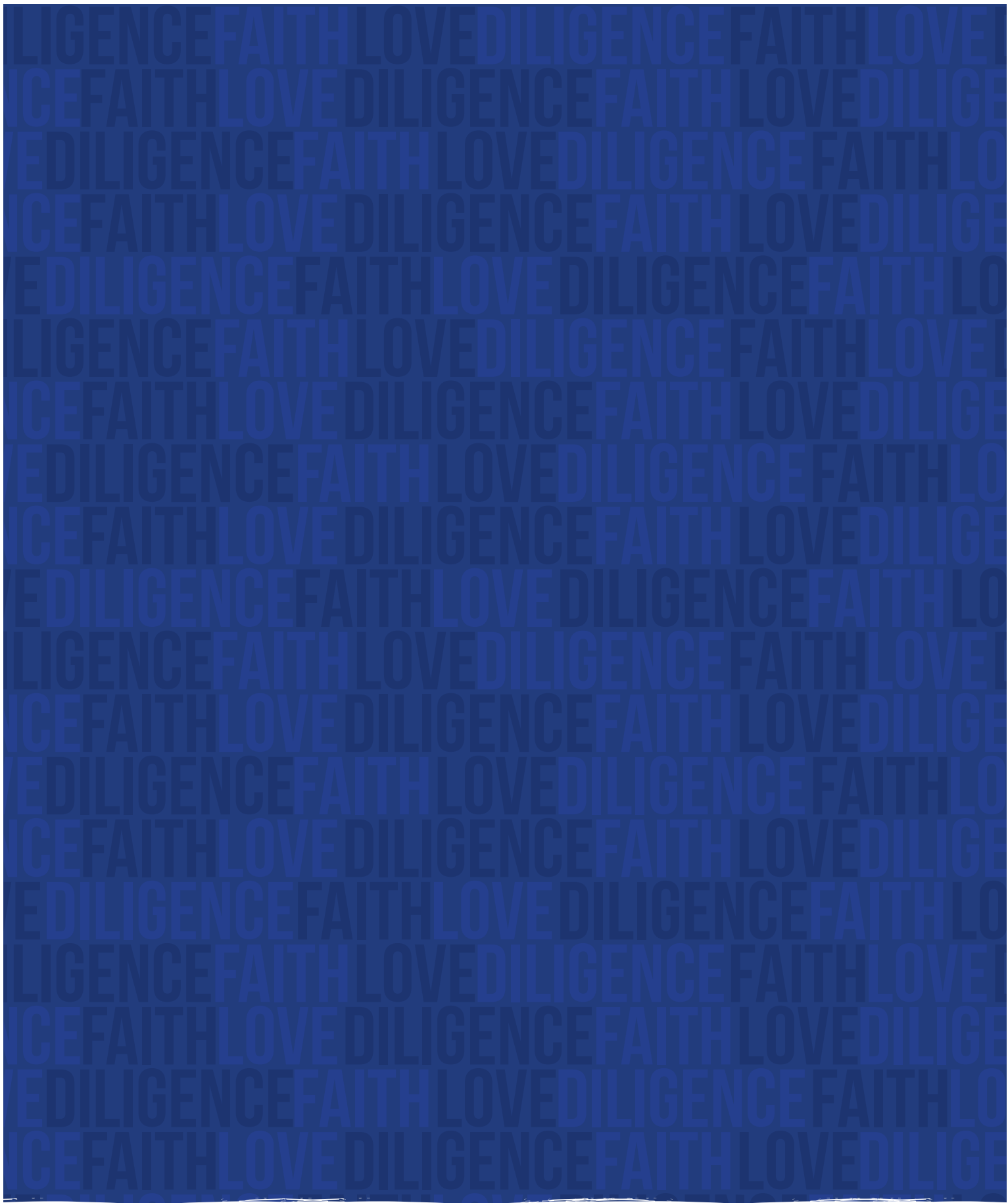
Students are expected to:

- be aware of the College's SunSmart policy;
- take responsibility for own health and safety by being SunSmart;
- comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats, clothing, and sunscreen;
- apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen before going outdoors;
- use shaded or covered areas outdoors;
- act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour; and
- participate in SunSmart education programs.

Position Title

Policy Approval

This policy is approved by the Principal.



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