

Sun Protection Policy

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1. Purpose

The Department of Education (DoE) has a duty of care to all staff, students and children while they are on educational sites, during educational site hours and while undertaking educational activities.

Reasonable steps must therefore be taken to ensure the safety of staff, students and children in relation to exposure to the sun.

This policy aims to protect staff, students and children, as far as reasonably practicable, from the dangers of exposure to the sun.

This policy also aims to ensure both staff, students and children maintain a healthy UV balance (exposure) all year round.

2. Policy Statement

Overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood and adolescence is a major risk for developing skin cancer later in life. By teaching sensible sun protection habits from an early age and implementing best-practice sun protection measures, early childhood services and schools can play a significant role towards reducing the life time risk of skin cancer.

Being SunSmart in Tasmania means using sun protection when UV levels reach 3 and above, this occurs from September to April. From May to August, sun protection is not recommended unless near highly reflective surfaces such as snow or being outdoors for extended periods. Therefore, this means implementing sun protection measures from the beginning of the school year until the end of April and again from the beginning of September until the end of the school year. Implementing sun protection measures throughout Terms 1 and 4 only is insufficient to protect against UV risks.

The senior staff members (principal, Centre Leader etc.) of the educational sites are responsible for the development and implementation of a Sun Protection Policy.

Each educational site must develop, and adhere to, a sun protection policy that is guided by the Cancer Council of Tasmania Sun Smart Program along with DoE policy.

Under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations* the approved provider of an education and care services must ensure that the service has in place a policy and procedure relating to sun protection.

DoE encourages all educational sites to apply to the Cancer Council of Tasmania to become a SunSmart Service. This will provide educational sites with further support in the development of a Sun Protection Policy along with general awareness around sun protection for their students and children.

For guidance on the development of a Sun Protection Policy and becoming a SunSmart Service, DoE encourages staff to refer to the following:

SunSmart Schools

The sun protection policy should include direction on the following:

- daily sun protection times
- strategies around the use of clothing, sunscreen, hats, shade and sunglasses at school
- the provision of sunscreen by the school to ensure the duty of care for its staff and students

- consideration for the management of allergic reactions to sunscreen (i.e. encourage parents to pack child's own sunscreen to minimise this risk)
- skin cancer prevention
- staff Occupational Work Health and Safety, role modelling and education
- planning and review of the policy

Educational sites must develop their Sun Protection Policy in consultation with their community (School Associations etc.) to reflect best practice for their educational site, students, children and staff. To ensure that School Associations, committees and communities are aware of their role in this process schools are to communicate any review/development process to them.

Educational sites must inform parents about their specific Sun Protection Policy. This may be achieved through publishing the document in the educational site handbook, newsletter or social media site.

Parents should also be informed that a full copy of both DoE's and specific educational sites' Sun Protection Policies are available for inspection at the school.

All staff on educational site are to be aware of the risks associated with the sun and sun exposure, along with the strategies to reduce these risks.

Being guided by the SunSmart sun protection times, senior staff will conduct risk assessments and manage accordingly.

Educational sites should take reasonable steps to ensure that students and children adhere to the policy.

3. Related policies

- [School Student Dress Code and Uniform Policy](#)

4. Related procedures

- [Specific Health Issues: Procedures, Information and Contacts](#) [Staff access only]
- [Planning Off Campus Activities Procedure](#) [Staff access only]

5. Supporting information/tools

- [Legal Issues Handbook](#) [Staff access only]

6. Definitions

Duty of Care: A duty imposed by law to take care to minimise the risk of harm to another.

Education and Care Services: This includes outside school hour's care, occasional care, long day care and/or family day care services.

Educational Site/s: This includes Tasmanian Government Schools, Early Childhood Intervention Centres (ECIS) and Child and Family Centres (CFCs).

Parent/s: Includes guardian/s or other person/s having the care and control of a student or child.

UV Index: This index divides UV radiation levels into categories; low (1-2), moderate (3-5), high (6-7), very high (8-10) and extreme (11 and above).

Sun protection needs to occur when the UV is 3 and above.

7. Legislation

- Nil

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