



STPATRICK'S
Technical College



SACE ■ TRAINING ■ APPRENTICESHIPS

Policies & Procedures 5.16

Student Sun Protection

Version 5: 21 January 2014
Ratified by Board of Directors: Feb 2014
Review Date: Feb 2017





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INTRODUCTION

The increasing occurrence of skin cancer in Australia is a matter of concern for the whole community. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with an estimated 160,000 new cases and 1,200 deaths recorded each year.

There are five major factors in Australia which contribute to these statistics:-

- a large proportion of the population has fair skin;
- ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from the sun is of high intensity;
- people's lifestyle, work, school and recreational practices may expose them to the sun frequently and for long periods;
- a suntan has often been viewed as healthy and attractive;
- exposure of the skin to the sun is common during peak UVR times.

Skin cancer and related skin damage are the result of frequent and unprotected exposure to the sun. Much of the sun exposure that causes later skin damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. By the age of fifteen years many children have developed irreversible skin damage due to exposure to the sun. Sunburn and even a mild redness to the skin are indicators of damaging exposure to the sun. Most skin cancers and related skin damage can be prevented by protecting the skin from the sun and avoiding exposure when UVR is at its highest during the middle of the day.

St Patrick's Technical College has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students and staff and this responsibility includes the provision of adequate protection from the sun throughout the year.

Implementing effective policies on sun protection will ensure the College makes not only a significant contribution to community efforts to reduce skin cancer and related skin damage, but more importantly, fulfils the College's responsibility for the duty of care of students.

POLICY

St Patrick's Technical College believes it is critically important for students to be protected from the harmful effects of being exposed to the sun. The College therefore has a sun protection policy that applies when students attend:-

- The College;
- An employer's worksite for on-the-job training;
- Registered Training Organisations (RTO's) for Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) training.

The College has a duty of care to ensure that sun protection is provided for students while they are on College premises during College hours or undertaking College related activities away from the College.

Protecting students from the sun is a shared responsibility between the College and parents/guardians that the latter must acknowledge and accept.



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This Sun Protection Policy refers specifically to students. However, for their own protection, staff are required to follow the guidelines outlined in this policy. Staff, in providing for their own protection, are also providing a role model for students.

Through the College curriculum, students will be made aware of the damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation caused by exposure to the sun, and the need to protect the skin from high levels of radiation.

GUIDELINES

Obligation to Comply

1. Students must adhere to the guidelines outlined in the Sun Protection Policy.
2. Parents/guardians are expected to support their children in meeting the obligations of the Sun Protection Policy and are to be informed of the policy as follows:-
 - Publishing the guidelines in College newsletters and other College correspondence;
 - Making the policy accessible on-line via St Patrick's Technical College's website;
 - Having a copy of the policy available for inspection at the College.

Protective Clothing and Shade Provision

1. Both broad brimmed hats and peaked caps are included in the College uniform. Students are encouraged to wear broad brimmed hats that cover the face, ears and neck while on any outside activity or break in sunny conditions.
2. The wearing of broad brimmed hats is compulsory when working for extended periods in the sun with on-the-job employers or VET training providers e.g. building and construction industry.
3. Students are encouraged to protect their skin by reducing their exposure to the sun, wherever possible.
4. The College supports the wearing of sun protective clothing. Loose fitting, closely woven cotton fabrics and shirts with a collar and longer sleeves and longer skirts and shorts are recommended.

Appropriate sun protective clothing is incorporated into the College uniform and students are expected to wear the most appropriate clothing to suit the weather conditions.

In special circumstances, the wearing of the College uniform may not be compulsory if an employer approves a variation due to on-the-job requirements.

5. The College community and Board of Directors seek to maintain and/or increase shade provision in College grounds. All students are encouraged to use the College's designated shade areas particularly during peak UVR times.

Wearing of Sunscreen

1. St Patrick's Technical College supports the regular use of broad spectrum and water resistant SPF 30+ sunscreen on exposed skin that cannot be protected by clothing.
2. Parents are encouraged to supply 30+ broad spectrum and water repellent sunscreen as part of their child's College equipment.



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3. The College will make sunscreen available for situations where students have not provided it, where they have forgotten it and at outdoor activities.
4. Where practicable students will be given opportunities to apply sunscreen 20 minutes prior to the lunch break and before participating in outdoor activities.
5. Students will be encouraged to apply sunscreen themselves.
6. Staff will exercise judgement as to whether some students should be supervised when applying sunscreen.
7. Parents/guardians should inform the College if they do not wish sunscreen to be applied to their children.
8. If a child is allergic to sunscreen, parents/guardians must notify the College about this on the medical form completed at the beginning of each College year. Parents/guardians have the option of providing a hypoallergenic sunscreen for their children.
9. All students who are engaged in outside on-the-job work activities are expected to apply sunscreen on those days when they are exposed to damage by the sun.

Rescheduling Outdoor Activities

1. The College will make every attempt to prevent prolonged periods when students are exposed to the sun. Strategies will include arranging timetables so that outdoor physical activities are minimised between 11:00am and 3:00pm, especially between the months of September to April when ultraviolet radiation is highest.

Sunglasses

1. The College encourages the wearing of sunglasses when students are exposed to the sun. The following recommendation is given to students when purchasing sunglasses to ensure the maximum protection from UVR:-
 - Wraparound sunglasses should be tinted to protect against ultraviolet light penetration and glare at the front and sides of the face.
 - Sunglasses should meet the standard specified in Australian Standard for ultraviolet protection, AS1067.

RELATED POLICIES

- *5.4 - Duty of Care / Health, Safety and Welfare*
- *5.10 - Excursions*
- *Work Health & Safety**

* *Catholic Safety Health and Welfare (CSH&W) policy*