

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy Concerning Children on Campus

Purpose and Description

The University of the Sunshine Coast is committed to the principle of equal opportunity for staff and students, and promotes a work and study environment that respects work, study and family responsibilities.

The University holds in high regard the safety of all children (any person under the age of (16) sixteen years), who may, from time to time be present on or in University property. To this end, due regard must be shown at all times by all staff, students and visitors for the safety of children when they are on the University Campus.

Responsibility

All staff, students and visitors who bring, or allow, children onto the University premises must ensure that they are in the control and care of an adult and accompanied by an adult at all times. All adults failing to comply may be asked by authorised officers of the University, including Security personnel, supervisors and lecturers to remove the child/children from the Campus. The authorised officer shall file a report of the request and reasons for the request to the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor will act in accordance with the University Act, statutes, policies and procedures.

The University recognises that student from nearby schools may be on campus, through their own initiative, using University resources and facilities that are available to the public, e.g., the Library, playing fields and athletics track. Such students found to be causing a disturbance or considered to be a safety risk may be asked by authorised officers of the University, to leave the Campus. The authorised officer shall file a report of the request and reasons for the request to the Vice-Chancellor, who will act in accordance with the University Act and statutes and will also notify the relevant school principal if necessary.

Implementation

Students and staff are reminded that their access to University resources and facilities arises out of a contract and that, as a result, the University should not be used as an alternative to other child care facilities during working or study hours.

However, the University recognises that, as a last option, parents/carers may need to bring their children into work and study environments during emergencies.

In such circumstances, the student or staff member is responsible for ensuring that adequate childcare arrangements have been made to ensure that the safety of that child is guaranteed, and moreover, the work performance of the staff member/student, or other staff members/students, is not impacted upon.

The University has introduced the following provisions to assist parents/carers bringing children onto campus:

- Permission to bring children into work or study environments is at the discretion of supervisors or lecturers. Such requests will be viewed with empathy, although the supervisor or lecturer must give consideration to the level of risk and disruption to other students and staff associated with the child's presence in the workplace or learning environment.¹
- There are some areas of the University where children may not be permitted because of potentially serious health risks to children. Such places include, but are not limited to, laboratories (science and computer), workshops and places where farm/grounds equipment is in use.
- Under no circumstances may a child/children enter laboratories, workshops, or any place of work where any form of experiment is conducted, except for formally organised visits by school children, when it will be the responsibility of the Dean of Faculty to ensure that adequate supervision is provided by University staff.
- Parents/carers must ensure the safety of their children and supervise them at all times. Children are not allowed to use resources provided for legitimate University purposes including telecommunications and computer systems and associate services such as e-mail, and the Internet.
- Staff and students are required to contact the appropriate supervisor and/or lecturer if children are left unattended and are causing serious disruptions.
- Children who are ill (particularly if due to an infection) are not permitted in work or study environments.

References

Code of Conduct for Officers and Employees of University of the Sunshine Coast
 Student Conduct and Discipline Draft Statute
 Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources

Approved: Council 99/51, 8.6.99
Last revised: Council C00/74, 8.8.00

¹ For example, an office environment may not necessarily be safe for a young child because of the potential risks due to electrical appliances, heating and cutting devices, heavy objects (eg VDU's, sharp edges, solvents and other chemicals).