



Sun Protection Policy

Rationale

Too much exposure to ultraviolet light (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer. There is enormous potential for schools to help prevent skin cancer in future generations. Schools are central to protecting children's skin this is because:

- Children are at school five out of seven days a week at times when UV rays are high.
- Most damage due to sun exposure occurs during the school years.
- Schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through role modelling and education.
- Students and teachers are at risk of sunburn within 10-15 minutes of being exposed to strong sunlight.
- Students spend an average of 1.5 hours outside per school day, more if involved in sports and outdoor activities.
- Skin cancer is largely preventable through behaviour modification and sun protection during early years.

The aim of this sun safety policy is to protect children and staff from skin damage caused by the effects of ultraviolet radiation from the sun. The successful of this health promotion programme will be more successful when an integrated whole school approach is adopted.

The main elements of this policy are:

- Protection: providing an environment that enables pupils and staff to stay safe in the sun.
- Education: learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour.
- Partnership: working with parents/carers, governors, our school nurse and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.

**This school believes in Sun Safety.**

As part of the Sun Safety policy, our school will:

- Educate children throughout the curriculum about the causes of skin cancer and how to protect their skin;
- Encourage children to wear clothes that provide good sun protection.
- Hold outdoor activities in areas of shade whenever possible, and encourage children to use shady areas during breaks, lunch-hours, sports and trips. Sunbathing is definitely discouraged.
- Work towards increasing the provision of adequate shade for everybody.
- Encourage staff and parents to act as good role models by practising sun safety.
- Regularly remind children, staff and parents about sun safety through newsletters, posters, parents meetings, and activities for pupils.
- Invite relevant professional (school nurses and health promotion officers) to advise the school on sun safety
- Make sure the Sun Safety Policy is working. We will regularly monitor our curriculum, assess shade provision, and review the sun safety behaviour of our young people and staff (use of hats, shade etc).

The Five Key SunSmart Skin cancer Prevention messages are:

Stay in the shade 11am – 3pm

Make sure you never burn

Always cover up – wear a t-shirt, hat and wraparound sunglasses

Remember children burn more easily

Then use factor 15+ sunscreen



Suggestions to help cope with hot weather

- Pupils to wear hats when outside.
- Pupils should wear sun cream (letters will be sent to Parents/carers to encourage them to send pupils to school in suncream)
- Teachers should make a judgement as to the temperature of classrooms and make internal arrangements to teach in cooler areas where possible.
- Teachers should encourage pupils to drink water and ensure there are regular breaks for them to do so.
- Where possible, all doors and windows should be opened to provide a through breeze & class room blinds should be drawn.
- Physical education lessons should be carefully planned to avoid sun exposure, unnecessary exertion and dehydration. In extreme weather, outdoor PE lessons should not last for more than 20 minutes when children should be brought indoors, given time to rest and drink water.
- Annual Sports' Day will be determined by preceding days' climate. Again children spectating should not do so for more than 20 minutes at a time.
- Pupils with Asthma, breathing difficulties or other relevant health conditions should avoid physical activities
- Parents/carers and children must be encouraged to follow these procedures at home
- Staff must also ensure they drink water regularly and take precautions against the high temperatures

In rare cases, extreme heat can cause heatstroke

Symptoms to look out for are:

Cramp in arms, legs or stomach, feeling of mild confusion or weakness.

- If anyone has these symptoms, they should rest for several hours, keep cool and drink water or fruit juice.
- If symptoms get worse or don't go away medical advice should be sought. NHS Direct is available on 0845 4647



If you suspect a member of staff or pupil has become seriously ill, call an ambulance. While waiting for the ambulance:

- If possible, move the person somewhere cooler.
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or using a fan.
- Cool them down as quickly as possible by loosening their clothes, sprinkling them with cold water or wrapping them in a damp sheet.
- If they are conscious, give them water or fruit juice to drink.
- Do not give them aspirin or paracetamol.



Date policy approved by Governing Body Curriculum & Policy Committee: Jan 2017

Signed Chair of Curriculum & Policy Committee: _____

Mr M Maher

Signed Chair of Governing Body: _____

Mrs W Blundell

Policy Review Date: Spring Term 2019