



Sun Protection Policy

School employers (managers) are responsible for the health and safety of teaching and non teaching staff, pupils and others who may use school premises. Health and Safety legislation requires employers to have a written policy and to conduct risk assessments. The potential for prolonged exposure to the sun and the risk of sunburn whilst at school or on school outings should be considered as part of the risk assessment process and measures put in place to minimise the risk.

The steps that schools should be considering to protect pupils and staff from the sun can be summarised as follows:

1. Sun Protection

During term time, pupils are in school during the peak UV hours five days a week.

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.

Collaboration: working with parents, governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.

Cancer Research UK's Sun Smart provides guidance for Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools in. (www.sunsmart.org.uk)

2. Shade

Avoidance is the most effective way of reducing exposure to the sun and preventing sunburn.

Short term practical solutions

Where possible use the current canopies within the key stage patio areas. Use sunshades or umbrellas particularly where pupils congregate outdoors and there is not ready access to the canopies. Re- schedule outdoor activities during the summer term so that they take place before 11am or after 3pm. During the summer term introduce a system for warning staff and pupils on high burning days. Encourage the use of hats outdoors and make them compulsory on sports days or other events when pupils will be outside for extended periods. Make sure that staff also wear hats outdoors to set an example.

3. Clothing

Encourage the use of clothing that covers the body. The cover factor is the most important aspect. Shirts must have sleeves the longer the better and collars to protect the neck. Shorts should be longer to protect the top of the legs. Loose fitting clothes are cooler. Cancer Research UK's SunSmart campaign advises people to look for t-shirt material with a close weave and in darker colours as they will block out the most UV rays. Hats- wide brimmed hats or legionnaire - style caps are the best. They provide adequate cover for the face, ears and back of the neck.

Water

Ensure that there is plenty drinking water. Children need extra fluids in hot weather to prevent dehydration.

Sunscreen

The use of sunscreen in schools is only one of a range of sun safety measures to prevent sunburn during the summer months but should be encouraged when other preventative measures such as shade or protective clothing are unavailable or impractical or as additional protection.

Sunscreen products are not classed as medicine. However the implications for sunscreen use in school are analogous to that of medicines. Teachers and other support staff are not legally obliged to administer sunscreen and the support and cooperation of parents is essential.

Schools have an important role in Safeguarding children. Protection from the sun is one of these safety issues.

Sunscreen should not be used to prolong the amount of time spent in the sun but as a form of protection when other measures are unavailable or impracticable. At school this would include:

- Outdoor breaks, particularly lunch breaks
- PE or other outdoor lessons
- Sports days
- School excursions including winter ski-ing trips and outdoor swimming pools

How should sunscreen be applied?

Sunscreen applied before school provides insufficient protection for the whole day. Therefore schools need to consider the use of sunscreen by pupils most at risk of sunburn during school hours.

Some Children may be prone to skin allergies/skin sensitivities therefore children should be encouraged to bring their own sunscreen into school labelled accordingly for their self administration. Self application is recommended however some children may require assistance. **Written permission for someone else to apply sunscreen must be gained from parents and carers.** Teachers who do help to apply sunscreen should do so only to the face neck and arms and in accordance with relevant school policies.

For further information:

Sunsmart- www.sunsmart.org.uk

Health Education Authority “Sun Safety Guidelines for Schools” available at [Sun Safety Guidelines](#)

Health Education Authority “Use of Sunscreen in Schools” available at: [Use of Sunscreen in Schools](#)

