

SUN SAFETY POLICY



Policy Reviewed: Spring 2007, 2010, 2013,
2017, 2021, 2024

Next Review: Spring 2028

Signed:



Purpose of Policy

To formalise and communicate the school's procedures for minimising risks to health caused through over exposure to the sun.

This policy is based on the Health and Safety advice from Hounslow Council contained within the LEA Health and Safety handbook.

Persons at Risk

- All employees
- All pupils

Although all the above persons will be at risk, the following factors will make certain individuals particularly susceptible:

- Those with fair skin or red hair
- Those with a large number of freckles or moles
- Those with a history of severe sunburn, especially if this happened in childhood
- Those who have already had skin cancer
- Those who work partly inside and partly outside [intermittent exposure]

Hazards

Ultra violet radiation [UV rays] from the sun causes over 1,800 deaths from skin cancer each year. The sun is particularly strong in the summer months and it is worth remembering that it is still possible to burn on a hazy or cloudy day too.

The midday period [11.00am to 3.00pm] is particularly dangerous.

These factors lead to a risk of:

- Burning, which can lead to skin cancer. Severe sunburn in childhood is known to significantly increase the risk of skin cancer in later life.
- Skin cancer
- Cataracts
- Dehydration

Risk Control

Employees

- All employees should take responsibility for ensuring their own safety in the sun.
- All employees should wear suitable clothing e.g. majority of skin covered wide-brimmed hats to protect head and neck - both to protect themselves and to provide a good example to the children.
- All employees are encouraged to supplement adequate clothing by wearing sun cream with a sun protection factor [SPF] of at least 15 or more
- All employees are encouraged to wear sunglasses with a UV filter to provide protection for eyes.
- All employees are encouraged to drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration.
- All employees are encouraged to seek shade wherever possible.

Pupils

- It is the responsibility of school staff to ensure the safety of the pupils in their care.
- With regard to sun safety, it is important to note that all skin types can burn in the sun in the same way as white skinned children.
- Pupils will be taught in assembly about sun safety appropriate to their age.
- Pupils should be discouraged from removing clothing, which leaves areas of skin uncovered. Where children arrive at school unsuitably dressed, they may have to wear additional items of clothing borrowed from the school or spend break periods under shade. (PE kit could be worn)
- Parents can provide sun block or sun-cream with a SPF of at least 15 where children are particularly at risk. Ideally the child would need to apply the barrier 20-30 minutes before exposure. This must be named and kept away from other pupils
- Pupils should wear class hats which provide protection to the neck.
- Pupils should be allowed to wear safe, plastic sunglasses with ultra violet protection. Although cheap sunglasses are unlikely to provide significant protection to the eyes, they can decrease discomfort. Pupils must be encouraged to drink plenty of fluids.
- School staff must take steps to limit the time spent in the sun, to reduce the risk of exposure. A maximum exposure of 10-15 minutes should be observed in the hottest periods when the sun index is high.

If the sun index is **high** (dark red triangle)

- **15 minutes** exposure to the sun in the playground **with hats**
- Provide pupils with a class hat if they do not have one
- High index rota determining exposure to the sun to be followed

- In extreme hot weather conditions alternative arrangements may need to be put into place for lunchtimes
- Common sense should prevail on other hot days that do not have the high sun index classification. Careful thought should be given to:
 - Play in the Nursery garden
 - Play in the Reception garden
 - Play in the Year One outside area
 - Big toys (Part of Reception PE)
 - Outside games and activities
- When the timing of any of the above activities leads directly to additional exposure consideration should be given to re-organisation of the activity
- e.g. Big toys and outside learning activities at 9am opposed to 2pm. In exceptional heat waves it may still be necessary to cancel these activities.

Please use your discretion during hot periods - If pupils are getting too hot they will need to seek shade. Please ensure that all pupils drink plenty of water. Shade is preferential to keeping the children inside.

Inside the Building

- There will be occasions when the decision is to keep the children inside. In this scenario the classroom fans should be used instead of opening doors and windows. In extreme heat the open doors and windows let in hotter air.

Line Manager

- The Assistant Head who is the line manager for SMSA should be consulted on any issue that is causing concern regarding sun safety at lunchtimes.

School Trips

Please take into consideration the following when planning a school trip;

- Time exposure to the sun for the duration of the trip
- Access to shade
- A note to parents which includes the following information
 1. Appropriate clothing e.g. arms covered
 2. Hat to be worn
 3. Application of sun cream before coming to school
 4. Those pupils most at risk should bring their barrier to be applied when necessary
 5. Sun glasses can be worn
 6. Plenty of water to be provided

The school will only book coaches that have air-conditioning.

Parents

- Will be made aware of and encouraged to support the school's policy.

Please cross reference with Disability Access Policy