

Mountfields Lodge Primary School



Sun Protection Awareness Policy

Aim High, Reach for the Sky

Sun Protection Awareness Policy

This policy will be reviewed once every 3 years, or when DfE legislation requires, or when requested by staff, governors or parents.

Policy Review: Spring 2023

Policy Review: Spring 2026

Sun Protection Awareness Policy:

Introduction:

Our school's Sun Safety slogan is:

'WRAP, SPLAT, HAT!'

WRAP up in a long-sleeved top/wear clothing that protects rather than exposes the skin

SPLAT on some sun-cream – Factor 15+

Put a **HAT** on that protects your face, ears and neck.

This message is promoted through:

- Whole-school assemblies/key stage assemblies and 'other verbal reminders' e.g. by lunchtime staff, class teachers etc in periods of sunny weather
- Newsletters home
- School displays

Our school is committed to sun safety to ensure that the children and staff are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultra violet rays in sunlight.

We believe that by encouraging and promoting sun safe behaviour at school and teaching children about the risks of sunlight, we can prevent them from burning and contribute towards preventing skin cancer.

Children have delicate skin that can be easily damaged by the sun's UV ray and can cause long lasting damage.

We believe it is the right of all children regardless of their gender, ethnicity, physical ability, linguistic, cultural or home background to have access to quality learning experiences in a **safe**, secure and supportive environment.

AIMS:

- To provide a whole school consistent approach to sun safety
- To ensure that all staff, governors, children and parents are aware of school procedures with regard to sun safety
- To educate pupils about the dangers of over exposure to harmful sun rays and to teach them how to protect themselves against sunburn

IMPLEMENTATION:

We want the staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely and so work with staff, pupils and parents to achieve this through:

EDUCATION:

* We talk about how to be sun smart in assemblies at the start of the Summer Term (earlier, if a hot spell of weather occurs)

* Parents and Carers receive information in a School Newsletter about what the school is doing regarding sun protection and how they can help.

PROTECTION:

Shade:

- * Children are encouraged to spend time in the shaded areas in the playground/field during lunchtime play during the summer months.
- * Consideration will be taken to ensuring sun safety in any plans for developing or updating school buildings or grounds and as a maintenance issue

Timetabling/Events:

- * Wherever possible school events are scheduled to take place outside the hours when the sun's rays are most harmful
- * Outdoor events are postponed or cancelled if the weather is exceptionally hot e.g. Sports Day
- * Children may be kept inside during playtimes and lunchtimes if the weather is exceptionally hot and shade cannot be found ('exceptionally hot' is to be deemed by the HT/DHT and is a 'local decision' based upon 'current' weather conditions)
- * Children in the Foundation Stage are discouraged from spending long periods of time in the Foundation Stage Outside Area and whenever possible are encouraged to stay in the shade
- * When planning outdoor visits during the summer months attention will be paid to adequate control measures to reduce the risk of damage from the sun, and specific Risk Assessments may be drawn up to reduce potential damage by the sun.

Clothing:

- * The wearing of sun hats is encouraged
- * All children are encouraged to wear a sun hat during playtimes when the weather is hot
- * Parents will be reminded of the importance of children bringing a sun hat to school during the summer months at the start of every Summer Term.

Sun cream:

- * Sun cream should never be used to prolong the amount of time spent in the sun but as a form of protection when other measures are unavailable or when additional protection is required.
- * Sun cream use is encouraged during the Summer Term, especially when the children are on school trips to outdoor venues.
- * Children are allowed to apply sun cream at lunchtime during the summer months (if parents wish them to do so) especially those children with sensitive skin and those who are at high risk of sunburn. Sun cream bottles must be labelled and will be kept in a safe place in the classroom.
- * Staff will not assist pupils with the application of sun cream; parents should apply an application of the product before school and pupils should be taught, at home, how to apply a 'top up', should it be required, at school

Sunglasses:

As children's sunglasses have little protective factors in terms of sun protection they are not encouraged in school; they also have limited protection as a pollen filter/pollen block. Pupil's choosing to bring sunglasses into school do so at their own risk – loss, damage, personal injury. We do not ban sunglasses, nor do we advocate them as being 'of need' for the vast majority of pupils; there will, however, always be the 'exception' and we are happy to deal with each on a case by case basis.

Water:

- * Water is always readily available to pupils. Children will be actively encouraged to drink water at regular intervals during hot weather to prevent dehydration
- * Additional jugs of water and cups will be available in all classrooms for those pupils who do not have water bottles in school
- * Parents will be reminded to send water bottles to school every day during the summer months via Newsletters, the website and letters about school outings and other outdoor events.
- * 'Water fountains' are available for pupil use. There is a cold water tap for staff in the staffroom.

FIRST AID:

Sunburn:

* Children will be given plenty of fluid and the affected area cooled with cold water. Parents will be contacted.

Heat Exhaustion:

* This is caused by exertion in, and over exposure to, high temperatures. Heat exhaustion is accompanied by dizziness, headaches and muscular cramps in the lower limbs. If a child is suspected of suffering from heat exhaustion, his/her parents will be contacted immediately. Meanwhile the child will be laid down in a cool area and offered sips of cold water. If the condition worsens, medical assistance will be sought.

Heat Stroke:

* Signs include dizziness, nausea and flu-like symptoms. If a child is suspected of suffering from heat stroke his/her parents will be contacted immediately. It is important to reduce the child's temperature by taking them to a cool place, removing outer clothing, and putting them in a sitting position with the head and shoulders supported. Again, if symptoms persist and the child's condition deteriorates medical assistance will be sought.

These should be considered 'extreme' and rare within the school day.

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS:

The head teacher will be responsible for ensuring that all children, parents, staff and governors are aware of school procedures with regard to sun safety.

Parents will be reminded of the school's sun safety policy and how they can support the implementation of the procedures on an annual basis and the full policy will be available on the school website.

The head teacher in conjunction with the school Health and Safety representatives and the Educational Visits Coordinator, will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate risk assessments are carried out for all outdoor events and activities in the summer months and apply appropriate measures to reduce the risks of damage from over exposure to the sun.