

Aims/Rationale

Children spend almost half their childhood at school, with approximately 8 hours per week spent outdoors. During the hotter months of the year children are exposed to UV radiation from the sun, the majority of which is when UV penetration is at its strongest - between 11am and 3pm. Without adequate protection, a child's delicate skin can burn within minutes, causing irreparable damage that can significantly increase their risk of developing skin cancer in later life. Therefore, we are committed to educating all pupils annually on sun safety using comprehensive, curriculum linked lesson plans, activities and resources provided by the Sun Safe Schools national accreditation scheme.

Our school will:

- communicate sun safety information through a range of channels e.g. our website, newsletters, text messages, school assemblies, class 'Community Times' and staff meetings;
- actively remind parents to ensure their child brings a quality sunscreen (with their name on) to school. This is because sunscreen applied in the morning before school will become ineffective by around 10/11 am leaving a child's skin unprotected during the hottest times of the day when UV penetration is strongest (between 11am and 3pm). Almost all sun screens need reapplying at least every two hours to provide adequate protection. There are few, expensive sunscreens that claim to offer a full days protection, so it is necessary for children to reapply their sunscreen before extended periods of play or outdoor activities during peak UV / school hours. It is recommended that all sunscreen provided either by parents or the school should:
 - Have a minimum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30
 - Be 'Broad-Spectrum' to provide both UVA and UVB protection and if labelled with a UVA star rating, carry a minimum of 4 stars
 - Be applied generously to exposed skin before extended periods outdoors when UV levels reach 3 or above
 - Be re-applied every 2 hours and more often if sweating/towelling
 - investigate whether we can make available additional sunscreen for all outdoor activities, events and school trips where children may have forgotten, lost or run out of theirs;

- actively encourage pupils to apply sunscreen when UV levels reach 3 or above before extended periods outdoors such as lunch breaks, PE, or outdoor activities
- take a practical approach toward the application of sunscreen, with assistance provided only where necessary, unless instructed otherwise by the parent;
- actively remind parents to ensure their child brings an appropriate, named sun hat to school; we recommend that sun hats provided by parents should be either broad brimmed, bucket style or legionnaire to adequately shade the face, neck and ears. Baseball caps are not recommended.
- have a limited number of spare hats in case a child has forgotten theirs; we will investigate fundraising opportunities for more school hats, so that each class has spares for all outdoor activities, events and school trips where children may have forgotten or lost theirs;
- actively encourage pupils to wear their sun hat when UV levels reach 3 or above and will use sun safe strategies to encourage pupils to cover up like 'No hat, play in the shade' on high UV days;
- conduct shade assessments to consider future needs and are committed to investigating fundraising opportunities and improving shade solutions;
- commit to monitoring UV levels daily during warmer months to ensure appropriate sun safety measures are implemented when necessary and we will encourage children to start taking an active role in UV monitoring in the future;
- ask staff, parents and carers to role model good sun safety behaviours, such as applying sunscreen and wearing a sun hat when UV levels reach 3 or above
- ensure all staff are actively involved in the implementation of this policy and that they consider sun protection when planning outdoor activities and school trips.

This policy should be read in line with all other school policies.

