

St. Andrew's C.P. School



Kirk Ella

Sun Protection Awareness Policy

Approved Spring 2025
Review Spring 2027

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 30+
- 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 ultraviolet 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 regarding 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, however this is the responsibility of the parent.
- Children are encouraged to wear clothing that covers the shoulders

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. Sun cream brought into school should be left in school for the duration of the Summer Term – **teachers/staff will not be responsible for reminding children to take sun cream home at the end of each day.**
- Staff will assist Foundation pupils with the application of sun cream by giving them guidance. In other year groups the children are responsible for their own application. 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.

- Teachers will not apply sun cream directly themselves
- **Staff will not be responsible for sun cream applied incorrectly**
- Children should be taught at home never to share sun cream.

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
- Children will be encouraged to get a drink if they have not brought in their own water bottles
- 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, however this is the parents responsibility.
- 'Water fountains' are available for pupil use. There is a cold water tap for staff in the staffroom and the school library.

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 regarding 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.

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