



Sun Safety Policy and Procedures

Water Orton Primary School

This policy was developed with pupils and staff at Water Orton Primary School

Policy Written: March 2025

Next Review: March 2028

Sun Protection Policy

Young children have sensitive skin that can be easily damaged by the sun's rays.

Parents/carers and Schools have a responsibility to ensure that children are protected from the sun

At Water Orton Primary School, we believe that developing a sun protection policy is an important step towards encouraging good health now and in the future.

We will ensure that:

- On extremely hot days Children avoid being outside between 11am & 2pm or go to a shaded area only.
- We will ask parents/carers to ensure that all areas of exposed skin on their child has been applied with (at least factor 30 with factor 50 recommended for children) sun cream, before they attend School.
- Staff are unable to apply cream to individual children, supplied by parents / carers unless the required documentation has been completed and there is a genuine need for them to do so, for example the child is unable to apply sun screen for themselves.
- It is not practical, or a good use of teaching time, for staff to apply sun cream to large numbers of children, this is why we will only apply cream to children who are unable to do this for themselves.
- We will ensure activities are set up in shady areas as much as possible and set up additional area of shade. Staff will encourage children to 'take time out of the sun'.
- Water is always freely available for children to access independently, during periods of hot weather children will be encouraged to increase their fluid intake.
- Where children present to school with significant sun burn on more than one occasion, we will consider carefully whether this constitutes neglect within our safeguarding duties. A record will be kept regarding children attending with sunburn.

At Water Orton, we want our pupils, staff, parents and carers to enjoy the sun safely. Educating our pupils on the importance of this, including how to reduce the risk of skin damage and about safe and unsafe exposure to the sun is part of our Relationships and Health Education (RHE) curriculum and commitment to safeguarding. We also believe that schools have a central role in this because:

- Children are at school five out of seven days a week at times when UV rays are high
- Most damage due to sun exposure occurs during school years
- Schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through role modelling and education
- Pupils and teachers are at risk of sunburn within 10-15 minutes of being exposed to strong sunlight – most break times are at least that long
- Pupils spend an average of 1 hour outside per day, more if involved in sports or outdoor activities.
- Research has shown that sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer.

This is why every year, we work with staff, pupils and parents to promote SunSmart behaviour and raise awareness of the risks posed by too much sun. We do this in the following ways:

Our Curriculum

Through our PSHE (RHE) lessons, we learn about safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage.

Risk Reduction Measures

- Shade – children are encouraged to sit in the shade in the playground and field on hot days and are requested to do this when staff notice that individuals have not sought shade for a while or look hot.
- Sun shades are available for children to sit under.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.
- Indoor alternatives – on days when the sun is particularly fierce or temperatures very high, staff supervising break times will reduce the amount of time spent outside by bringing children inside to play with friends for the remainder of the break time.
- Access to water – children are encouraged to take water bottles with them wherever they go during the summer term so that they do not become dehydrated.
- Sun cream – members of staff remind children to re-apply sun cream before outdoor break times

Role modelling

Members of staff are encouraged to act as role models by:

- Wearing protective hats and clothing when outside
- Applying SPF 15+ sunscreen
- Seeking shade whenever possible / appropriate

Parental support

- We will ask parents/carers to ensure that all areas of exposed skin on their child has been applied with (at least factor 30 with factor 50 recommended for children) sun cream, before they attend School.

- Staff are unable to apply cream to individual children, supplied by parents / carers unless the required documentation has been completed and there is a genuine need for them to do so, for example the child is unable to apply sun screen for themselves. Written consent will be asked for to do this.
- If pupils bring sunscreen to school to apply themselves this must be kept secure by the teacher and must be labelled with the child's name.
- It is not practical, or a good use of teaching time, for staff to apply sun cream to large numbers of children, this is why we will only apply cream to children who are unable to do this for themselves.

The following web links will provide further useful information for parents and carers:

- <http://sunsmart.org.uk/>
- <http://www.nhs.uk/video/pages/sunsmart.aspx>
- <http://www.nationalschoolspartnership.com/sunprotection2010resources.html>
- <https://soltansunready.com/for-families#>