

CORSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hot Weather Policy



Reviewed: September 2023

Policy Ratified by the LGC: November 2023

Next Review Date: September 2024

CORSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOT WEATHER POLICY

This policy is to be read in conjunction with other policies including the Health and Safety Policy, School Visits Policy and the Children with Medical Needs Policy.

1. Rationale

Working in an environment which is very hot can be detrimental to health. The school will follow the HSE guidelines regarding working conditions. Details can be found by visiting: www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/ . In addition to this, too much exposure to ultraviolet light (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer. There is enormous potential for schools to help prevent skin cancer in future generations.

Schools are central to protecting children's skin this is 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 the school years.
- Schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through role modelling and education.
- Students and teachers are at risk of sunburn within 10-15 minutes of being exposed to strong sunlight.
- Students spend an average of 1 hour outside per school day; more if involved in sports and outdoor activities.
- Skin cancer is largely preventable through behaviour modification and sun protection during early years.

2. Responsibilities

2.1 Responsibilities of Head Teachers:

- Head Teachers is a term used to describe the senior leadership team in the organisation. It will include but may not be limited to the Heads of School and their deputies. The Head Teachers will ensure that necessary arrangements are in place to comply with the requirements of this policy.

2.2 Responsibilities of staff:

Staff will follow means outlined in this policy to:

- Ensure that pupils are protected from harm from the sun

- Ensure that they take adequate protection to keep themselves safe from harm from the sun.

2.3 Responsibilities of parents/carers:

- Providing their children with appropriate protection from the sun and ensuring that this protection is available from the start of the school day.
- Supporting the school by acting as role models
- Using a combination of these sun protection measures when attending and participating in outdoor activities, to protect themselves from the sun.

3. Adopt sun protection strategies

Staff will encourage students and staff to wear protective clothing during summer term.

- **School Clothing** is made of close-weave fabric and includes shirts with collars and sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts. Sports clothes should not include vest style tops.
- **Hats** - children are encouraged to wear caps and / or wide brimmed hats that protect their face, neck and ears such as legionnaire or bucked hats, when they are outside.
- **Sunglasses** - Children's eyes are very sensitive to light. It is important therefore to protect their eyes by ensuring they wear wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses if appropriate. Sunglasses should have UV protection. (Look for BS EN 1836:1997 on the label).
- **Water** - Children are reminded, and encouraged, to drink water at regular intervals throughout the day and have access to water at all times in personal bottles in the classroom and when outdoors.

4. Sunscreen

Covering up and seeking shade are the most important sun protection measures. In addition, sunscreen can provide protection to exposed skin. However, sunscreen should not be used to increase the amount of time spent in the sun.

Pupils should be encouraged by parents to apply sunscreen before school starts – SPF30 or above (as recommended by [Sunscreen and sun safety - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)). Children can be encouraged to bring in sun cream for application at lunchtime. Staff will encourage children to apply suncream.

Sunscreen must be applied by the child and not by a member of staff unless part of a specific personal medical plan approved by the school nurse in full collaboration

with the child's parents or carers. Only appropriate sunscreen which has no impact on a child's particular medical needs must be used.

5. Shade

The school makes sure there are sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate.

- In consultation with the education department, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.
- Children will be encouraged by staff to make use of available shaded areas when outside.
- Support recommendations to seek shade during breaks and dinner hour.
- Provide permanent or temporary shady structures within school grounds.

6. Actions in times of extreme heat (30°C+)

During heatwaves, the school takes additional precautions:

- We shorten outdoor breaks as appropriate
- Opening doors and class windows first thing to let the cool air in
- Close doors and windows when air turns hotter outside than in
- Keep blinds closed if sun shining directly into window
- Ensure children have full water bottles outside in shade for play and lunch
- All jumpers/cardigans off and left in class
- Contact parents with children in tights and ask for an alternative
- No running around games/football
- Encourage children to play in the shade
- If children have sunblock/caps/sunglasses remind them to use them
- Look out for signs of heat exhaustion – red hot skin, shallow breathing, confusion, temp of 39+. Refer to First Aid staff.
- Check drugs are stored in a cool place for days over 25 degrees C

7. Other considerations for staff

Act as role models by:

- Wearing protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside.
- Apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen.
- Seeking shade whenever possible.
- Being positive in your approach. Allowing sun protection strategies to be fun, involve everyone, and provide choices.
- Encouraging fund raising events for materials and shady structures.

8. Reviewing and evaluating the policy

This policy will be reviewed annually and with reference to current health education guidelines.

9. Equal Opportunities

When writing and reviewing this policy staff have completed an Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment in order to ensure it complies with equality obligations outlined in anti-discrimination legislation. We believe the policy positively reflects the aims and ambitions identified in Corsham Primary's Single Equality Scheme.