



Sun Safety Policy

Rationale:

At St Thomas More Primary School we are committed to our duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK and the number of cases is rising. The good news is that the majority of these cases could be prevented. Most skin cancers are caused by ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. If we protect ourselves from the sun then we can reduce our risk. This is particularly important for children and young people whose skin is more delicate and easily damaged. Studies have found that sunburn during childhood can increase the risk of skin cancer later in life. You may not see the damage immediately because skin cancer can take years to develop, but children who are over-exposed to the sun now are storing up problems for the future.

Purpose:

The purpose of the sun safety policy is to provide:

- An environment that enables pupils and staff to stay safe in the sun
- A curriculum which includes sun safety, to increase knowledge and influence behaviour
- Collaboration with parents, governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.

At St Thomas More Primary School we acknowledge the importance of sun protection and want staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely. We will work with staff, pupils and parents to achieve this through:

Education:

- Sun protection is incorporated into the curriculum for all ages,
- All teachers and staff are made aware of this policy and the importance of sun protection within the school environment,
- Sun protection is actively promoted to pupils at significant points of the school year
- Parents are informed of the importance of sun protection through information sent home in newsletters and a letter informing them of the sun protection policy.

Protection:

SHADE

- The school playground has shade provided by the school building,
- Some shaded areas and seating is available in the playground,
- There are a variety of trees on the field which provide shade at different times of the day.
- Children will be encouraged to use the shaded areas of the school during playtimes when appropriate.
- The availability of shade provision is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.

TIMETABLING

- Our lunchtimes are 75 minutes in length for Key Stage 1 and 60 minutes in length for Key Stage 2, which includes eating in the dinner hall. This means that the children are outside for approx. 45 minutes (Key Stage 1) and 30 minutes (Key Stage 2) over lunchtime,
- When outdoor activities and events take place on very hot days, we ensure hats, appropriate clothing and sunscreen are worn to minimise sunburn,
- During very hot weather, morning/ afternoon breaks and lunch breaks will be monitored to minimise risk of sunburn.

CLOTHING

- Pupils are encouraged to wear wide-brimmed or legionnaire style hats when outside.
- Pupils always wear tops that cover their shoulders (vests and strappy tops are not allowed) as part of their school uniform and PE kit,
- Pupils are allowed to wear UV protective sunglasses on sunny days,
- Staff also wear suitable clothing and hats to reinforce sun safety.

SUNSCREEN

- Parents are encouraged and reminded to ensure that high factor/8 hour sun screen is applied to children before school on very hot days,
- Pupil are encouraged to bring in sunscreen cream/lotion (named and only used for the named child) to school, this should be applied by the child.
- Letters are sent home seeking parental permission for pupils to apply sunscreen in school when needed, under staff supervision,
- Some teacher discretion may be applied with helping young children apply cream, permission letters for the application of sunscreen will be sent home for younger children.

HYDRATION

- All children are encouraged to bring a water bottle into school each day,
- Children are allowed to keep their water bottle in the classroom and are allowed to drink from it throughout the day,
- There are water fountains in the school building which children can use during playtimes,
- Water is provided in the dinner hall at lunchtimes.

This Sun Safety Policy was developed in conjunction with the Sun Smart Policy Guidelines.