

Hayfield Primary School

SunSmart Sun Protection Policy

H & S Policy – Appendix 4.8

At Hayfield Primary School we recognise that children have delicate skin that can easily be damaged by the sun's UV rays, particularly in the middle of the day. In line with our PSHE Policy, we encourage good health and want staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely.

Our aim is to ensure that pupils are protected from the harmful effects of too much sun as much as possible during the school day. We will work with staff, pupils and parents to achieve this through:

EDUCATION

- All pupils will have at least one SunSmart lesson per year. Teaching resources and parents' information leaflets from National Schools Partnership ('Wrap, Splat, Hat' programme) are used to enhance the teaching and learning of Sun Safety. (See www.nationalschoolspartnership.com)
- We will talk about how to be SunSmart in assemblies at the start of the summer term and before summer break.
- Parents and carers will be sent a letter explaining what the school is doing about sun protection and how they can help at the beginning of the summer term.
- Teachers will attend a special SunSmart training workshop at the end of the Easter term and information on sun safety will be provided in the staff room.

PROTECTION

Shade:

- We will encourage students to sit/play in the shade where it is available. When it is particularly warm, we put a canopy over the stage on the junior playground, umbrellas over the tables and there are many areas shaded by trees in the school grounds. We have also just been granted planning permission for a large shade to be fitted over an area of the school field. All staff are vigilant during playtimes to ensure that children are not playing in direct sunlight during hot, sunny periods.

Timetabling:

- We will aim to schedule outside activities, school trips and PE lessons early or late in the school day, where appropriate. However, we are increasingly using the outdoors for learning, so children are bound to be outside more often during the summer months. Therefore, we will aim to ensure hats, suitable clothing and sunscreen are all worn to prevent sunburn.

Clothing:

- Children are encouraged to wear hats that cover the ears, face and neck during hot, sunny periods.

- ☐ Children wear T-shirts for PE to protect their shoulders from the sun and are encouraged to wear loose-fitting clothes during the day to keep them cool and comfortable.
- ☐ During hot sunny periods, we encourage all adults on playground duty, teaching outdoors or on school trips to wear hats for their own protection and to model SunSmart behaviour.

Sunscreen:

- ☐ Sunscreen use will be encouraged during summer at lunch breaks, during PE lessons and on school trips.
- ☐ We expect parents to apply **24h or 8hr sunscreen** to their children during the summer months before coming to school. If a child has particularly sensitive skin and needs to have sunscreen reapplied, we ask them to bring their own **labelled bottle of sun spray protection** into school and self apply. However, if the child is young and incapable of doing this, an adult (DBS checked) will spray lower arms and legs and ask the child to spread the cream themselves.
- ☐ We cannot supply sunscreen for all pupils but we do carry spare Factor 15+ sunscreen spray to be applied **ONLY IN ABSOLUTE EMERGENCIES**.

NB: All children are asked to bring a labelled water bottle to school every day, which they can refill on demand, as appropriate. No child will ever be deprived of regular access to water because they have forgotten their water bottle. All classes will have spare plastic cups/bottles in their classrooms.

The five key SunSmart skin cancer prevention messages are:

Stay in the shade 11-3

Make sure you never burn

Always cover up – wear a t-shirt, hat and sunglasses

Remember to wear sunscreen, at least Factor 15+

Take care of your skin!

This policy is about:

PROTECTION: providing an environment that enables pupils and staff to stay safe in the sun

EDUCATION: learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence sensible behaviour

COLLABORATION: working with parents, governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.

Review

This policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis, along with our policy on Healthy & Safety.

Attachment

LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents or Carers,

Now the summer term has started I want to remind you about our **sun protection policy**. We have developed this with the help of governors, teachers and pupils to ensure that we can all enjoy the sun safely over the coming months.

The sun's rays are particularly strong over the summer and can damage children's skin. This may not seem like a problem right now, but sadly it can lead to **skin cancer** in later life. Your child's health and well-being are very important to us, which is why we:

- ensure children learn about sun protection in school
- provide shaded areas in the playground
- encourage pupils to wear hats and t-shirts when outside
- encourage pupils to use at least factor 15+ sunscreen during the summer months.

More details of our sun protection plans can be found in our SunSmart Policy which is available on the school website or can be emailed to you if requested.

Your support is very important if our policies are going to work. You can help by:

- Talking to your child about the importance of sun protection at home
- Sending your child to school with a hat, preferably one with a brim that protects the face and covers the back of the neck
- Ensuring your child is wearing loose-fitting clothes during the warmer months
- Applying 24 or 8 hour Factor 15+ sunscreen (most leading chemists sell children's 24 or 8 hour sunscreen at a reasonable cost) to your child before they come to school
- Sending sunscreen (**spray**) with your child to school in a labelled bottle, so that they can reapply the spray themselves. ***This will only be necessary in circumstances such as: when it is particularly hot or your child has very fair or sensitive skin.***

During hot weather, if you forget to apply sunscreen to your child, or they have no sunscreen in school, you are welcome to come into school during the day and apply it yourself.

May I remind you also to ensure your child brings to school, every day, a labelled water bottle? This is especially important during the summer months. Together I hope we can have a very happy and safe term to come!

Kind Regards

Claire Fisher
Headteacher