

Woodlands Primary & Nursery School



Sun Safety Policy

RATIONALE

Whilst we recognise that some sun is good for us, Sun Safety is an important health and safety issue for schools. Children spend almost half their childhood at school, with approximately 8 hours per week spent outdoors. During the warmer months of the year children are exposed to UV radiation from the sun, the majority of which is when UV penetration is at its strongest (between 11am and 3pm). Without adequate protection, a child's delicate skin can easily burn, causing accumulative and irreparable damage. This can significantly increase their risk of developing skin cancer in later life. This policy is aimed at highlighting the importance of schools and parents working together, to increase knowledge, influence behaviour, ensure children are protected against UV and learn how to enjoy the sun safely.

1. SUNSCREEN

We actively remind parents to ensure their child brings a quality sunscreen to school / leaves their sunscreen at school for application as required.

We make available additional sunscreen for all outdoor activities, events and school trips where children may have forgotten, lost or run out of theirs.

We actively encourage pupils to apply sunscreen when UV levels reach 3 or above before extended periods outdoors such as lunch breaks, PE, or outdoor activities.

A practical approach toward the application of sunscreen will be necessary, with assistance provided only where necessary, unless instructed otherwise by the parent.

2. SUN HATS & CLOTHING

We actively remind parents to ensure their child brings an appropriate sun hat to school / leaves their sun hat at school for use as required.

We make available additional/spare sun hats for all outdoor activities, events and school trips where children may have forgotten or lost theirs.

We actively encourage pupils to wear their sun hat when UV levels reach 3 or above. Baseball Caps are not recommended and will be phased out. We use sun safe strategies to encourage pupils to cover up like 'No hat, play in the shade'.

We ensure pupils wear school and PE uniforms that keep shoulders covered, vests/strappy tops are strongly discouraged. Sunglasses are optional.

3. SHADE

We provide shaded areas outdoors where pupils congregate for outdoor play, lessons and activities. This includes trees and/or purpose built or portable shade structures.

4. MONITORING UV

We are committed to monitoring UV levels daily during warmer months to ensure appropriate sun safety measures are implemented when necessary.

5. STAFF AND ROLE MODELLING

We ask staff to role model good sun safety behaviours such as applying sunscreen and wearing a sun hat when UV levels reach 3 or above.

We are committed to ensuring all staff are actively involved in the implementation of this policy and that they consider the UV forecast and sun protection/ control measures when planning outdoor activities or school trips.

6. SUN SAFETY EDUCATION

We are committed to educating all pupils annually on sun safety using comprehensive, curriculum linked lesson plans, activities and resources provided by the Sun Safe Schools national accreditation scheme.

7. INFORMING THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

We communicate sun safety information through a range of channels e.g. our website, newsletters, text messages, social media, school assemblies and staff meetings.

8. REVIEW

The school will regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of this policy and will update the policy on an annual basis in-line with renewing our Sun Safe Schools accreditation.

Date: February 2024

Review Date: February 2026