

Polesden Lacey Infant School



Sun Safety Policy

Status	Non - Statutory
Review Cycle	Three Yearly
Revision	3
Date written/last review	September 2023
Date of next review	September 2026

Signed Headteacher:

Date:

Introduction - Health professionals, groups and organisations report that sunburn in childhood increases the risk of skin cancer developing in adulthood. Children spend a lot of time outdoors in the summer months and the timing of the school day means that they are outside at times when the sun is at its strongest. It is important that we have considered all the issues and that we:

- a) take them into account when planning outdoor activities
- b) raise awareness so that children and parents can make informed choices/decisions about sun safety

Arrangements for Outdoor Lessons and Activities

The following points need to be taken into account when staff are organising or supervising outdoor lessons and activities during hot or sunny weather. It is also important that staff try to follow these guidelines in order to be a role model for those in their care.

Weather Forecasts – Attention should be taken of weather forecasts and the maximum times advised for exposure to the sun. The sun is at its strongest from 11 am until 3 pm and so outdoor events/activities should be carefully planned of these times to ensure protection or shade is provided. It is important to remember that during the summer months skin can become damaged on cloudy days.

Protection

a) **Clothing** – Children must wear clothing that protects the neck, shoulders and upper arms, at school during the summer months. Children are encouraged to wear protective, legionnaire hats for outdoor activities organised by the school; including PE, lunchtimes and day trips. Parents should provide a long sleeved T-shirt and knee length shorts if they consider that their child is at greater risk. The wearing of sunglasses is not allowed.

b) **Sunscreen** – Parents must apply long lasting sun-cream at home. The school does not allow sun cream to be applied in school unless there are exceptional medical needs. Any cream should be a minimum factor of 30, preferably water resistant and with a UVA star rating of at least 4. Staff will assume sun cream has been applied on sunny days.

Provision of Shade – Access to shaded areas especially for those children without sunscreen or hats must be ensured e.g. no hat, play in the shade. Opportunities should be taken to make maximum use of shade during outdoor activities e.g. introducing lessons indoors, using shade from trees /buildings for any discussions/evaluations during lessons. When it is extremely hot and no shade is available, staff should consider the appropriateness of the activity.

Organisers of class day trips should ensure that the location has provision for shaded areas in the same way as provision for wet weather.

Provision of Liquids – during periods of hot weather, plenty of fluids are needed to prevent dehydration. At the end of lessons and activities, it may be necessary to ensure access to water.

Children should be encouraged to take drinks regularly rather than in one go. At Polesden Lacey Infant School pupils are encouraged to drink from their water bottles, throughout the day, all year round.

Teaching about Sun Safety

Children – the curriculum should include;

Learning about the weather, its effects and appropriate clothing to wear

Dangers of the sun and ways to protect yourself – skin, eyes, drinking fluids etc.

Parents and school community – regular newsletters should remind parents of sun safety issues.

School uniform purchased from school will include sun hats.

Staff and parents should be encouraged to practice sun protective behaviour and to be positive role models.

The development of the school grounds will continue to emphasise the importance of providing and maintaining shaded areas.