



Sun Protection Policy



Policy Type:	Health and Safety
Updated:	September 2024
Next Review:	September 2025

Sun Protection Policy

At Harthill Primary School we are committed to ensuring that we meet our health and safety obligations to staff and children, including during outdoor activities. During summer months and when the weather is warmer, it is important that all our children stay safe outside.

Overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation presents a severe risk to the health and wellbeing of our staff and children, with the potential to cause sunburn, blistering and sickness.

This policy outlines the framework in which our school will identify, manage and minimise the risks of UV rays to our staff and children.

The procedures outlined in this policy will be adhered to by all staff members, children, parents / carers and visitors whilst on the school premises or attending a school event.

Legal framework:

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Safeguarding policy
- Administering medication policy
- First aid policy

Minimising risk

To minimise risk of heatstroke, sunstroke and sun damage, we:

- Expect staff and children to use sunscreen of at least sun protection factor (SPF) 30 on any part of the body not covered up.
- Use sunscreen in accordance with the product's instructions.
- Ensure staff and children take regular breaks in the shade when working outside, rather than staying out in the sun.
- Ensure children wear sun hats when outside in the sun.
- Reschedule work/outdoor lessons when UV exposure is high.
- Ensure staff and children are clear about where the shady parts of the outdoor environment are.
- Encourage staff and children to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- Ensure all staff members, children and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, this policy.
- Where children have suffered from a sun-related illness (e.g. sunstroke) a first aider will provide appropriate support.
- Ensure individual plans are in place for any children at higher risk of sun related illness based on medical reasons.

Clothing

During the Summer months, with temperatures above 23 degrees Celsius (°C), everyone working at or attending the school will need to protect their face, neck and ears using a hat.

Sun-safe hats are recommended and include:

- Bucket hats with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5cm for children.
- Broad-brimmed hats with a brim of at least 6cm for children and 7.5cm for adults.

- Baseball caps or visors are not as highly recommended but will be allowed at school.
- Children without hats or caps will only play in an area protected from the sun, unless a hat has been provided by school (we keep a small stock to allow this).
- Children will be advised not to wear their jumpers during hot weather.

Children can wear sunglasses with UV protection. These must be well fitted and staff can request children remove them for certain activities (e.g. using the climbing frames or balance bikes).

Sunscreen

Everyone attending the school will be required to apply at least SPF 30 broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen with a UPV rating of at least 4 before school. This will then be reapplied at lunchtime by the children.

24 hour/all day sunscreens are not recommended as we can't control factors like how much your child sweats during the day, or whether it has rubbed off on towels or clothing.'

Sunscreen will be self-administered, under supervision, for younger children in F2 and Y1.

In line with the Sun Safe School advice, we encourage parents at home to teach younger children how to apply their own sunscreen. We will then reinforce this at school.

The SchoolRun.com states 'It's a good idea to teach your child to apply their own sunscreen once they're of school age, encouraging them to cover any exposed areas of skin. There are various different child-friendly formulations that may help your child, such as roll-ons, sprays and mousse.'

Children in Y2 and older will be reminded to wear sunscreen but expected to apply without supervision.

Children will be asked to provide their own sunscreen in a bottle labelled with their name. For families with multiple children who need to share, please send the cream with the youngest child and the older child/children will then be able to access it in their bag.

Teachers and other staff members are not be required or expected to apply sunscreen to children, unless stated in a care plan.

Where a teacher or other staff member applies sunscreen to children to meet the requirements of a care plan, another member of staff will witness the application and parental consent will be obtained beforehand.

Where sunscreen has not been applied before school, children will be unable to play in the sun.

Where sunscreen has not been provided to reapply at lunch time, children will not be allowed to play in the sun.

For children in KS2, it is their responsibility to act on the staff reminder and reapply sunscreen for playing outside at lunchtime. School staff will not be responsible for monitoring that they have done this and will not prevent children from playing outside.

Sunscreen will not be kept at school and will be sent home in book bags daily.

PE and outdoor learning

On days above 25°C, PE lessons will only involve activities that are not overly strenuous.

Appropriate clothes, hats and sunscreen will be worn during PE in hot weather, and participants will remain suitably hydrated. Water bottles will be taken out with children. Children who have no sunscreen in school so cannot reapply at lunch will not be able to take part.

On days above 28°C, PE lessons will be held indoors to prevent any kind of illness resulting from strenuous activities in hot conditions.

School visits

Children attending school visits on hot days should adhere to the above criteria around sun protection, including the wearing of hats, access to drinks and use of sunscreen. Sunscreen should be sent from home.

Sports days will be postponed if the temperature exceeds 28°C.

All children regardless of age will be supervised putting on sunscreen for any trips or outdoor events which require an elongated period of time outside.

Albinism

The school recognises that the lack of melanin in a child with albinism's skin increases their risk of sunburn and skin cancer.

To enhance their protection from the sun, we will ensure that children with albinism have a personalised care plan which outlines the requirements to meet their need.

We will ensure that specific medical advice in relation to children with albinism is adhered to.

Sunscreen will be provided by the parents / carers, as per all children.

Useful links for more information:

<https://www.sunsafeschools.co.uk/>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/sun-safety-primary-schools>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/>