



Sun Safety Policy

Be Sun SMART

Spend time in the shade between 11 and 3

Make sure you never burn

Aim to cover up with a t-shirt, hat and sunglasses

Remember children burn more easily

Then use factor 50+ sunscreen



RATIONALE

Millfields Community School is committed to sun safety to ensure that children and staff are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays in sunlight. We believe that by encouraging and promoting sun safe behaviour at school and teaching children about the risks of sunlight, we can prevent them from burning and contribute towards preventing skin cancer. Children have delicate skin that can be easily damaged by the sun's UV ray and can cause long lasting damage.

AIMS

- To provide a whole school consistent approach to sun safety
- To ensure that all staff, governors, children and parents and carers are aware of school procedures with regard to sun safety and work together as a community to reinforce awareness about staying safe in the sun.
- To educate pupils about the dangers of over exposure to harmful sun rays and to teach them how to protect themselves against sunburn

INCLUSION

We believe it is the right of all children regardless of their gender, ethnicity, physical ability, linguistic, cultural or home background to have access to quality learning experiences in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Whenever possible outdoor school events will be scheduled outside of the hours when the sun is at its hottest i.e. 11am-3pm.

In the summer term morning break is extended and lunch breaks shortened to avoid the midday sun? We acknowledge that some children with fairer skin will be at greater risk of damage from the sun than those with darker skin. These children may require additional measures such as further applications of sunscreen during the school day but all children regardless of skin colour are at risk from harmful UV rays. Additional shade will be provided in the Foundation Stage playground during the summer months to ensure that younger children can access learning experiences in the outside area safely.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

In accordance with the outcomes of 'Every Child Matters', every effort will be made to ensure that children and staff stay safe and keep healthy during the summer months. Children will be educated on the harmful effects of the sun and children will be encouraged to take increasing responsibility for wearing appropriate clothing, drinking plenty of water and staying in the shade during the hottest part of the day. In addition, protective measures will be put into place by the school to reduce the risks of overexposure to the sun.

IMPLEMENTATION

At Millfields Community School we want the staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely. We will work with staff, pupils and parents to achieve this through:

EDUCATION:

- All pupils will receive at least one 'Sun Smart' lesson per year
- We will talk about how to be sun smart in assemblies at the start of the Spring and Summer Term
- 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

PROTECTION:**Shade:**

- Children will be encouraged to spend time in the shaded areas in the playground during lunchtime play during the summer months
- We will continue to raise funds for an additional shaded area in the playground
- Additional gazebos will be erected to create additional shade in the Foundation Stage garden/playground during hot weather
- Consideration will be taken to ensuring sun safety in any plans for developing or updating school buildings or grounds and as a maintenance issue

Timetabling/Events:

- Wherever possible school events will be scheduled to take place outside the hours when the sun's rays are most harmful
- During the afternoon sports day additional gazebos and canopies will be erected on the field to provide additional shade for the children and adult spectators
- Outdoor events may be postponed or cancelled if the weather is exceptionally hot
- Similarly children may be kept inside during playtimes and lunchtimes if the weather is exceptionally hot
- Children in the Foundation Stage will be discouraged from spending long periods of time in the Foundation Stage outside area and whenever possible will be encouraged to stay in the shade
- During the Summer Term, parents will be kept informed of warnings from the meteorological office of high burning days via the Millfields Mag, the website, letters and texts
- When planning outdoor events during the summer months risk assessments will be carried out to ensure that adequate control measures are in place to reduce the risk of damage from the sun

Clothing:

School sun hats are available to purchase from the Main Office.

There will be a class supply of sun hats in each nursery and reception class. All pupils without a sunhat will be provided with one when on a trip outside school.

- All children will be encouraged to wear a sun hat during play times when the weather is hot
- Parents will be reminded of the importance of children bringing a sun hat to school during the summer months at the start of every Summer Term

Sunscreen:

- Sunscreen should never be used to prolong the amount of time spent in the sun but as a form of protection when other measures are unavailable or when additional protection is required
- Sunscreen use will be encouraged during the Summer Term, especially when the children are on school trips to outdoor venues
- We will send letters home asking for permission for children to apply sunscreen during the summer months for those children with sensitive skin and those who are at high risk of sunburn
- In accordance with school guidelines, as outlined in the School's Safeguarding Policy, staff are not able to assist pupils with the application of sunscreen, unless there is a medical or emergency situation.

Water:

- Water is always readily available to pupils. Children will be actively encouraged to drink water at regular intervals during hot weather to prevent dehydration
- Additional jugs of water and cups will be available in all classrooms for those pupils who do not have water bottles in school
- Parents will be reminded to send water bottles to school every day during the Summer months via the Millfields Mag, website and letters about school outings and other outdoor events

FIRST AID

Any child suspected of suffering from sunburn or heat exhaustion will be taken indoors to a cool place and a message will be sent to the office to contact the child's parents.

Sunburn:

Children will be given plenty of fluid and the affected area cooled with cold water

Heat Exhaustion:

This is caused by exertion in and over exposure to high temperatures. Heat exhaustion is accompanied by dizziness, headaches and muscular cramps in the lower limbs. If a child is suspected of suffering from heat exhaustion, his/her parents will be contacted immediately. Meanwhile the child will be laid down in a cool area and offered sips of cold water. If the condition worsens, medical assistance will be sought

• Heat Stroke:

Signs include dizziness, nausea and flu-like symptoms. If a child is suspected of suffering from heat stroke his/her parents will be contacted immediately. It is important to reduce the child's temperature by taking them to a cool place, removing outer clothing, and putting them in a sitting position with the head and shoulders supported. Again if symptoms persist and the child's condition deteriorates, medical assistance will be sought.

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring that all children, parents, staff and governors are aware of school procedures with regard to sun safety.

Parents will be reminded of the school's sun safety policy and how they can support the implementation of the procedures on an annual basis and the full policy will be available on the school website.

The Headteacher in conjunction with the school Health and Safety Officer will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate risk assessments are carried out for all outdoor events and activities in the summer months and apply appropriate measures to reduce the risks of damage from over exposure to the sun.

This policy will be reviewed every two years and in response to any Government, LEA and health guidance.

Jane Betsworth,

June 2023

To be reviewed

May 2025