



Sun Protection Policy

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Contents

1. Introduction and Purpose 3

2. Key Policy Principles Linked to National Guidance 3

3. Legal and Regulatory Context 4

4. Roles and Responsibilities 4

5. Education (DfE Requirement) 5

6. Protection Measures 5

7. Sunscreen Use (Aligned with NHS & NEU Advice) 6

8. Collaboration With Parents and Community 6

9. UV Index Monitoring (Best Practice) 7

10. Heat and Sun-Related Illness 7

11. Review and Monitoring 7

Appendix 1 8

Appendix 2 9

Appendix 3 10

1. Introduction and Purpose

Sunnyfields Primary School is committed to promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of all pupils and staff. Excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause sunburn, premature skin damage, and increase the risk of skin cancer.

This updated policy reflects:

- **DfE Health Education requirements**, which require schools to teach children about the risks and benefits of sun exposure and how to protect their skin.
- **Public Health England and DfE guidance**, encouraging schools to adopt sun-safety measures such as hats, shade, clothing and sunscreen.
- **NHS sun-safety recommendations**, including use of SPF50 sunscreen and avoiding sun exposure during peak UV hours (11am–3pm).
- **Recognised best practice models** such as the Sun Safe Schools framework, which emphasises protection, education, and collaboration.

The policy applies during periods where UV exposure poses a risk (typically March–October) or when the **UV Index reaches 3+**, which is the level at which protection becomes necessary.

2. Key Policy Principles Linked to National Guidance

Consistent with DfE and national health expectations, Sunnyfields Primary adopts a three-pillar approach aligning with best practice in schools:

1. **Protection:** creating an environment that helps pupils and staff stay safe in the sun.
Aligned with best-practice frameworks such as Sun Safe Schools.
2. **Education:** making sun safety part of our statutory PSHE/Health Education curriculum.
Required by DfE Health Education Guidance.
3. **Collaboration:** working with parents, governors and the community to promote lifelong sun-safe habits.
Recommended by Cancer Research UK and national guidelines.

3. Legal and Regulatory Context

This policy supports the school's duty to safeguard children, including managing environmental health and safety risks under:

- **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974**
- **Education Act 2002** (duty to safeguard and promote welfare)
- **DfE Health Education statutory content**, which requires pupils to learn about sun-safety behaviours.
- **Public Health England / DfE guidance**, which encourages development of sun-protection policies in all schools.
- **NHS guidance on sunscreen**, which recommends SPF50, broad-spectrum UVA/UVB protection, and shade between 11am–3pm.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

School Leadership

- Ensures annual review and implementation of this policy (supported by PHE and DfE recommendations).

Staff

- Supervise and encourage sun-safe behaviours (DfE safeguarding expectations).
- Model safe clothing and sun protection.

Parents/Carers

- Provide SPF50 sunscreen, hats and protective clothing.
- Support school teachings and routines. (This aligns with national best-practice recommendations for parental involvement).

Pupils

- Follow sun-safety reminders.
- Wear hats and apply sunscreen where able.

5. Education (DfE Requirement)

As sun-safety education is part of mandatory Health Education, Sunnyfields ensures that pupils learn:

- The risks of UV exposure
- How to protect their skin
- Why hats, shade and sunscreen matter
- Why sunburn must be avoided (NICE guidance and DfE-approved resources)

Educational delivery includes:

- Assemblies each April
- PSHE lessons (KS1 + KS2)
- Visual reminders around school
- Website information for families

6. Protection Measures

6.1 Shade

- Encourage shade use at breaks and lunchtimes — recommended by Public Health England and DfE.
- Shade considered when planning trips or outdoor events.

6.2 Clothing

In line with NEU and NHS guidance:

- Pupils should wear protective clothing including:
 - Wide-brimmed or legionnaire hats (recommended nationally).
 - T-shirts covering shoulders rather than vest tops.
- Staff should model sun-safe clothing.

6.3 Timetabling

Following NHS guidance that sun is strongest 11am–3pm:

- Outdoor activity will be scheduled outside peak UV hours when possible.

7. Sunscreen Use (Aligned with NHS & NEU Advice)

Consistent with NHS and NEU guidance:

- SPF50 with minimum 4-star UVA protection is required.
- Sunscreen should be applied before school.
- KS1+ children should self-apply wherever possible (NEU recommendation).
- Only non-aerosol sunscreen allowed.
- Pupils must use their **own** sunscreen due to allergy risks.
- School emergency sunscreen may only be used with parental consent.

Staff Application – Safeguarding Guidance (NEU):

If staff assist, this must be:

- With written parental consent
- Only to face, neck, arms, hands, and lower legs
- In a public, visible area with another adult present
- For pupils unable to apply it themselves

8. Collaboration With Parents and Community

Aligned with Sun Safe Schools and Cancer Research UK guidance:

- Letters sent at start of summer term
- Policy published on school website
- Whole-school approach involving governors, families and staff

9. UV Index Monitoring (Best Practice)

- UV Index checked daily during warm months (NHS/Meteorological Service recommended).
- UV3+: Sun protection required
- UV6+: Additional shade measures

10. Heat and Sun-Related Illness

To complement NHS sun-safety advice:

- Hydration promoted
- Adjusted activities in heatwaves
- Staff vigilance for heat exhaustion

11. Review and Monitoring

Annual review aligned with best practice from CRUK and Sun Safe Schools, which recommend yearly updates and evaluation.

Appendix 1

Advice for Staff on Pupil's Application of Sun Screen

Where, through risk assessment, it has been decided that all other control measures such as limiting exposure, clothing with long sleeves and use of shade are either inadequate or unavailable and the use of sunscreen to provide protection cannot be avoided, the following advice must be considered:

1. Most children will be able, with some direction, to apply sunscreens themselves; self-application is recommended. This prevents allegations of abuse and encroachment into learning time.
2. Dermatologists recommend that a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) 50 and capable of protecting against UVA and UVB spectra, will provide children in this country with adequate protection; parents should be encouraged to provide sun screen in line with this advice.
3. Young children and some children with special needs may require assistance.
4. An adult **MUST** apply cream in presence of another adult in such cases.
5. In these circumstances Staff will ask parents/carers for permission for someone else to apply sunscreen. See appendix 2.
6. Staff who help to apply sunscreens should do so only on the face, neck and arms to minimise the risk of allegations.
7. Support should only be given in an open area. Staff should avoid touching a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent and should be aware of those children for whom touching is unwelcome.
8. The risk assessment process must include consideration of potential silliness and the levels of supervision required to ensure that pupils who bring their own sunscreens to school use such products appropriately.

Appendix 2

Letter to Parents

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Now the summer term has started, I wanted to write and tell you about our sun protection policy.

We have developed this with the help of parents, 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 they can damage children's skin. This may not seem like a problem right now, but 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 have decided to:

- Increase the amount of school time spent learning about sun protection.
- Provide more shade in the playground.
- Encourage pupils to wear hats and t-shirts when outside.
- Encourage pupils to use SPF 50 sunscreen in summer months.

More details of these and other new sun protection plans can be found on our [website](#).

Your support is very important if our new 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 wide-brimmed hat.
- Returning the sunscreen permission slip at the bottom of the letter for children in Nursery or Reception, or where they have additional need for support.

Together I hope we can have a very happy and safe term to come!

Appendix 3

Sunscreen Consent Form Statement:

As children play regularly outside, it is important that they are protected from the sun and it's also recommended that throughout the summer months all children have an application of sun cream applied to them before playing out in the sun.

It is recommended that sun cream has a minimum factor value of 50

We request that all children have sun cream applied BEFORE arriving at school, if a top up is required during the day children from KS1 age upwards are expected to be able to reapply their own sun cream.

Children in preschool should also have sun cream applied BEFORE arriving at school and school staff will then assist in reapplying sun cream at lunchtime if it's required, in this instance Sunnyfields Primary school require parent/carer permission before applying sun cream to a child

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Sunscreen Application Consent:

Child's Name:

Date of birth:

- I give permission for you to apply sun cream, which I have provided for my child as necessary during their day. I agree to provide this labelled with my child's name.
- I give permission for the school to use a supermarket bought sun cream, should they forget to bring their own
- I will provide my child with a sun hat, I understand that this should either be wide brimmed or with neck covering (Legionnaire style)

Parent/Carer Name:

Date:

Signed: