



Oakwood Primary Academy

Sun Safety Policy

Rationale

Too much exposure to ultraviolet light (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer. There is enormous potential for schools to prevent skin cancer in future generations and promote keeping safe in the sun to the adults in school.

Schools are central to protecting children's skin. This is because:

- Children are at school five out of seven days a week at times when UV rays are high
- Most damage due to sun exposure occurs during school years
- Schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through role modelling and education
- Students and teachers are at risk of sunburn within 10-15 minutes of being exposed to strong sunlight
- Students spend an average of 1.5 hours outside per day, more if involved in sports or outdoor activities.
- Skin cancer is largely preventable through behaviour modification and sun protection during early years

At Oakwood Primary Academy we want staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely. We will work with staff, pupils and parents to achieve this by raising pupil and parent awareness.

Implementation

We will achieve this by implementing these measures:

- All pupils will have at least 1 Sun Safety lesson per year which will be included on our long term plan. Sun safety to be included in the PSHE curriculum.
- We will talk about how to keep safe in the sun in assemblies at the start of the summer term. This will be on our annual assembly plan
- Parents and guardians 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
- Shade - children will be encouraged to sit in the shade in the playground and field.
- Sun shades (natural and man-made) will be available for children to sit under.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities
- Children and staff should be encouraged to bring sun hats to school to wear at playtimes and during outdoor PE lessons in the summer term.
- Children may bring sunglasses to school to be worn outdoors on bright days
- Children should wear T-shirts which cover their shoulders or long sleeves for playtime and PE lessons.
- Children will not be allowed to wear vest tops for PE lessons.
- All teachers, teaching assistants and lunch-time supervisors will be encouraged to set a good example when on playground duty and during sports lessons. We would expect staff the wear sun cream if necessary. No vest tops to be worn outside by staff

Sun Screen

Sunscreens should not be used to prolong the amount of time spent in the sun but as a form of protection when additional protection is required. Children and adults will be encouraged to use sun cream when it is appropriate.

At school this would include:

- Outdoor breaks, particularly lunch breaks



- PE or other outdoor lessons
- Sports days
- Educational visits

Most children will be able, with some direction, to apply sunscreens themselves, self-application is recommended. Parents will be asked to teach their children how to use cream sensibly. Staff will not usually apply sun screen to any children. Where an individual child is unable to apply their own cream (for example they have additional needs) the school with the parent/carer will agree an individual plan and this will be included on a risk assessment. Staff will use their professional judgement to decide whether or not they volunteer to administer sunscreen.

We will send letters home asking for permission for children to apply their own sun screen in school.

Role modelling

Encourage staff to act as role models by:

- Wearing protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside as necessary
- Apply sunscreen when necessary

Collaboration

The school will aim to work with parents, Governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.

This policy has been developed using the Cancer Research UK SunSmart Guidelines for Primary Schools.

Risk assessment

The risk assessment process must include consideration of the levels of supervision required to ensure that pupils who bring their own sunscreens to school or apply sun creams use such products appropriately.

Children who have an identified additional need who will have sun cream applied will have an individual risk assessment which will include this.

Date: October 2018

Review Date: September 2019