



SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Adopted: Autumn 24

Review: Autumn 27

Policy Review and Monitoring

This policy is due to be reviewed at the time stated, unless circumstances determine that this policy needs to be reviewed at an earlier time.

Signed: **Chair of Governors**
Mr J. Orchard

Headteacher
Mr K. Stroud

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Introduction

At Maes yr Haul Primary School we want children to enjoy the sun safely. We work with staff, pupils and parents to achieve this. This policy incorporates guidance from Skin (<https://www.sunsafeschools.co.uk/resources/>) and Cancer Research UK (www.sunsmart.org.uk) and represents the agreed principles for Sun Protection throughout the school. It reflects the continued status of Maes yr Haul Primary School as a Healthy School.

Rationale

Why is sun protection important for children and young people?

- 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 help prevent skin cancer in future generations. 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 the school years.
- Schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through role modelling and education.
- Pupils and teachers are at risk of sunburn within 10-15 minutes of being exposed to strong sunlight.
- Pupils spend an average of 1.5 hours outside per school day, more if involved in sports and outdoor activities.
- Skin cancer is largely preventable through behaviour modification and sun protection during early years.
- Children have delicate skin that can be easily damaged by the sun's UV rays, particularly in the middle of the day. Schools have a responsibility to ensure that pupils are protected from the harmful effects of too much sun as much as possible during the school day. This is particularly important when engaging in school based activities such as ski trips, outdoor excursions, water sports, sports days, and

outdoor PE lessons where the potential for sunburn is higher. Although fair skinned people are more at risk from sun damage, sun protection is relevant to everyone.

Sun Protection Strategies

Maes yr Haul Primary School will endeavour to minimise risk to pupils and staff through a range of strategies as follows:

Education

- We will talk about how to be SunSmart in assemblies at the start of the summer term each year. The key messages will also be reinforced in class regularly through hot weather. 'SunSmart' resources are available to all staff from their website, to support class-work, and remind them of the main points.
- Parents and guardians will be sent a leaflet explaining what the school is doing about sun protection and how they can help at the beginning of the summer term.

Shade

- Shaded areas are available in all outdoor areas. This includes shade from buildings, canopies, parasols and trees.
- The school seeks to ensure that there are enough shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds.
- Shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.
- Children are encouraged to make use of available shaded areas when outside.
- Support recommendations to seek shade during breaks and dinner hour.
- Provide permanent or temporary shady structures within school grounds.
- We will encourage pupils to sit/play in the shade where it is available.

Timetabling

- Outdoor PE lessons and activities will be restricted / re-scheduled (where possible) if the sun is too hot. If this is unavoidable staff will try to ensure that hats, clothing and sunscreen are all worn to prevent sunburn.

Clothing

- Children are encouraged to wear hats that cover the ears, face and neck. Children wear t-shirts during PE lessons to cover up their shoulders.
- Staff are encouraged to wear hats when on playground duty and teaching outdoors.

Sunscreen

- Parents will be encouraged to apply Sunscreen (SPF Factor 30+) on their children before school each morning and are encouraged to provide their children with sunscreen (Factor SPF30+) for their own child's use during the day. Children may be assisted with the application of their sunscreen if they cannot do it for themselves. This is part of the schools' duty of care for its pupils if they are going outside in the hot sun. Parents are required to notify the school in writing if they are unwilling for this to be done.

- The sunscreen must be labelled and will be stored in crates and kept by the class teacher. The crates of sunscreen will be made available to the children during break times and lunch times. Sunscreen will be encouraged on outdoor school trips. Staff will be encouraged to wear sunscreen during outdoor P.E. lessons and when on playground duty.
- The school retains a small quantity of hypo-allergenic sunscreen for emergency use only. As most sunscreen has a shelf life of one year, staff should ensure that the product is in date before it is offered to pupils.

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