

WEST KIRBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY ON SUN AWARENESS AND PROTECTION 2014

1. RATIONALE

Too much sun can cause damage including sunburn, premature ageing and skin cancer. It is an issue for all ages but extra care is needed with children as prolonged exposure to sun during childhood can lead to long term skin damage, including cancer.

The governors of West Kirby Primary School, therefore, see the development and promotion of sun awareness amongst its pupils and staff as a matter of prime importance.

2. PRINCIPLES

The basic principles underlying this policy are to encourage pupils, parents and staff as follows:

- take care not to burn
- spend time in the shade in the middle of the day
- cover up and wear a hat
- use a high factor sunscreen
- be aware that sun can harm

3. AIMS

The key aims are:

- **Protection:** provide a physical environment in which pupils and staff are protected from over exposure to the sun.
- **Education:** promote awareness amongst pupils, parents and staff of the effects of the sun and of appropriate preventative strategies.
- **Collaboration:** working with parents, governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness of sun safety and promote a healthy school

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The guidance in this policy will be reinforced every year, both before and during periods of hot weather, orally with staff and children and by a written reminder to parents.

5. CURRICULUM

Sun awareness and sun safety is addressed through:

- reminders to staff and children in assemblies
- during lessons in personal and social development/health education
- in physical education
- in other lessons e.g. through discussion of the issues involved in sun awareness in English lessons.

The school nurse also raises the issues during her health education lessons with year six pupils.

6. CLOTHING

Pupils are encouraged to wear appropriate school uniform & a sun hat. The wearing of hats with a peak and/or a neck covering is to be encouraged,

7. SUNSCREENS

Parents will be advised that the school is happy to facilitate the use of sun screen by storing personally labelled bottles. The children will be required to apply the sunscreens themselves. Sunscreens must be labelled with the child's name. Staff will encourage children to apply sunscreen if it is provided.

8. **BREAK TIMES AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

a. **Break times / Lunch times.**

Whilst recognising that pupils need to take regular exercise, during periods of hot weather, pupils are to be encouraged to avoid over exposure to the sun during break times and not to run around for long periods of time in direct sun. Pupils and staff should be encouraged to:

- make use of the areas of shade within the playground.
- wear hats and use a sunscreen.
- utilise the free access to drinking water .

b. **P.E. and Games.**

The timing, length and nature of outside P.E. activities are given careful consideration during hot weather so those pupils are not exposed to harmful amounts of sun. Sports days are always arranged for the morning in order to avoid the hottest part of the day and drinks are provided for pupils. (Reference should be made to Wirral Guidelines on Safety in Physical Education)

c. **Educational Visits (including outdoor activities)**

Pupils are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing e.g. collared shirts, hats, and to bring their own sunscreen. If a pupil fails to bring sunscreen, the teacher will use a sunscreen to protect that pupil unless a parent does not grant permission. Pupils are encouraged to drink plenty of water.

Careful consideration will be given to the timing, length, location and nature of activities during hot weather in order to prevent over- exposure to the sun. (see also Wirral policy documents Education Visits and Safety in Outdoor Education (H004/94)

9. **STAFF**

All staff will be made aware of this policy and the need for it and of the necessary safety precautions. They will reinforce sun safety messages through the curriculum, adults will act as role models and encourage pupils to use sunscreen, to wear suitable clothing (including a hat) and to drink plenty during hot weather.

Midday supervisors will encourage pupils to seek shady areas at lunchtime and will be vigilant for pupils who are in danger of spending too long in the sun. They will encourage pupils to drink extra water on hot days.

10. **PARENTS**

Parents are made aware of this policy and of their role in its implementation at the beginning of each summer term.

Revision History

Revision	Date	Changes
Policy written	Spring 2012	
Reviewed and agreed	Spring 2014	Revision history added to end of document to replace first paragraph now deleted.
<i>Next due review</i>	<i>Spring 2016</i>	