

Peters Hill Primary

Ambition

Belief

Compassion

Pride

Respect

Sun Safety Policy

April 2024

Sun Safety Policy

The aim of this sun safety policy is to promote awareness of sun safety to children, parents/carers, and staff in school. Children in school are cared for throughout the year and during the summer months we should consider sun safety.

At Peters Hill Primary School, we want staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely. We will work with staff, pupils, and parents/carers, to achieve this through raising awareness.

As part of the sun safety policy, our school will:

- Educate pupils throughout the curriculum about how to protect themselves and their skin from the sun,
- Encourage children to cover up with suitable clothing that provides good sun protection,
- Include sun safety in the PSHE curriculum,
- Communicate with parents/carers explaining how the school is raising awareness of sun safety and how parents can support with this,
- Ask for permission from parents/carers for children to apply sun cream to themselves,
- Encourage parents/carers to supply sun cream for their child to use in school,
- Encourage staff and parents/carers to act as good role models by practising sun safety,
- Encourage children to drink water regularly.

As a school, we recognise that outdoor activities can provide opportunities which benefit health and well-being. During such activities:

- Pupils and staff will be encouraged, whenever possible, to use areas of shade (natural and man-made) during break times, lunchtimes, sports activities and visits off site
- The availability of shade is considered when planning school visits and outdoor activities
- Pupils may bring sun hats to wear at playtimes and during outdoor PE lessons during the summer term
- Teachers should encourage pupils to drink water and ensure there are regular breaks for them to do so
- Where possible, doors and windows should be opened to provide ventilation and classroom blinds may be drawn in areas of direct sunlight
- PE lessons will be carefully planned to avoid excess sun exposure and unnecessary physical exertion
- Staff will be encouraged to wear hats when on playground duty and during sports lessons when necessary

Parents/carers are asked to:

- Talk to their child/children about sun safety
- Apply a layer of sun cream to their child/children before they arrive for the school day
- Supply sun cream for their child/children to use in school
- Teach their child/children how to sensibly use and apply sunscreen to themselves
- Encourage their child/children to apply the sun cream themselves (to promote independence)

- Clearly label sun cream coming into school with their child's name and class

We encourage staff to act as role models by:

- Supervising children as they apply sun cream in school
- Talking to children about sun safety
- Seeking shade where possible during outdoor activities
- Drinking water regularly
- Wearing protective hats when outside and during sports lessons as appropriate

In rare cases, extreme heat can cause heat exhaustion. Some of the symptoms to look out for may include:

- A headache
- Feeling sick
- Excessive sweating
- Pale, clammy skin
- Cramps in the arms, legs and stomach
- Fast breathing
- Extreme thirst

If anyone is showing these symptoms, first aid support should be sought immediately. The first aider will then determine if further medical advice should be sought.

The school will aim to work with parents, Governors and the wider community to raise awareness about sun safety.

Appendix 1

Guidance for staff on the application of sun cream for pupils

Under the terms and conditions of their contracts, staff are not required to administer medicines or to give first aid to pupils.

As such, there is no legislation that prevents staff from administering sun cream, where other controls cannot provide protection, but this would be on a voluntary basis. Staff will use their professional judgement to decide whether they volunteer to administer medication or sun cream.

Where it has been decided that all other control measures such as limiting exposure and use of shade, are either inadequate or unavailable, and the use of sun cream to provide protection cannot be avoided, the following advice must be considered:

- The protective effect of sun cream products is reduced over time, as the sun cream is absorbed and/or rubbed off
- Sun cream applied before school generally provides insufficient protection for a whole day unless specific long-life creams have been used
- Most children will be able to apply sun creams to themselves with some direction.
- Self-application is recommended.
- Sun creams should not be used to prolong the amount of time spent in the sun but as a form of protection when other measures are unavailable, impractical or when additional protection is required

At school, sun cream would be recommended to use during:

- Outdoor breaks – particularly lunch breaks
- PE, sports days, and other outdoor lessons
- Educational visits

Where the decision has been made to use sun cream, it will be necessary to ensure that it is applied correctly. Staff need to advise pupils to:

- Apply the sun cream evenly over the exposed areas of the body (face, neck, arms and legs) with particular attention to those areas that burn easily such as ears and neck. Make sure they rub it in well.
- Young children and some children with additional needs may require assistance.

Permission from parents/carers must be obtained for a member of staff to apply sun cream to their child.

Staff who do help a child to apply sun cream should only do so on the face, neck and arms. When supporting a child, this should take place in an open area.

Staff should refer to the Guidance for Safer Working Practices document for guidance on particular aspects of work and appropriate behaviours.

Approved by the FGB – 1.5.24