



## St Peter's C of E (VC) Primary School Sun Policy

St Peter's Primary School believes in promoting sun safety to ensure that children and staff are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultra-violet rays in sunlight.

At St Peter's Primary School, we will:

- Educate children throughout the curriculum about how to stay safe in the sun, including the causes of skin cancer and how to protect their skin.
- Encourage children to wear clothes that provide good sun protection and use sunscreens where appropriate.
- Remind children to seek shade, particularly in the middle of the day and to use shady areas during breaks, lunchtimes, sports and trips.
- Encourage staff and parents to act as good role models by practising sun safety.
- Regularly remind children, staff and parents about sun safety through newsletters, posters and activities for pupils.
- Remind children to drink plenty of water during the day, particularly when the weather is hot.
- Regularly monitor and assess shade provision, and review the sun safety behaviour of students and staff (use of hats, shade etc.).

St Peter's Primary School wishes to encourage pupils to protect themselves from the sun. One way of doing this is to use sunscreen (SPF 15+) and is effective against UVA and UVB at the appropriate time.

### **Parents are asked to:**

- **Provide sunscreen** (SPF 15+) that is effective against UVA and UVB for school use. Please note that we do not allow the use of aerosols in school.  
The sunscreen must be:
  - a) Clearly marked with the child's name.
  - b) Replenished by the parent as needed.
- **Apply sunscreen** at home before the school day. Don't forget to apply it to their neck, shoulders, nose, ears, cheeks and tops of their feet if they are wearing sandals.
- Teach their child to apply their own sunscreen. **Children must be able to apply their own sunscreen.**
- Encourage your child to **wear longer sleeved shirts and longer shorts** when outdoors.
- **Provide a hat**, preferably one with a wide brim that shades the face and neck.

- **Ensure that your child has a water bottle in school.**

**In school:**

The sunscreen product will be stored in a box in the classroom.

Teachers and support staff will remind children to cover up in the sun and use sunscreen.

The school will remind parents of the sun safety policy from time to time, particularly around the start of the summer term.

This policy should be read alongside Telford and Wrekin Guidance (Appendix A).

**Headteacher Statement**

The Headteacher of St Peter's Primary School has agreed the Sun Protection Policy. This is in line with the curriculum aims recommended by the LA, which were adapted and adopted by the Governors of this school.

(Review date – April 2022)

Letter to parents informing them about the school's approach to sun safety:

Date

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **Sun Safety at School**

Our school is concerned about protecting staff and pupils from sunburn and from skin damage that can be caused by the harmful ultra violet rays in sunlight. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the country. As sunburn and almost all skin cancers are caused by the sun, it is possible to prevent this happening. The school believes that by encouraging sun safe behaviour at school and teaching children about the risks of sunlight, we can prevent them burning and contribute towards preventing skin cancer.

The school would like your help and support in this matter. We will be encouraging children to avoid sunburn and overexposure to the sun by:

- **Seeking the shade, particularly during the middle of the day**
- **Wearing suitable hats**
- **Wearing clothing that protects the skin, particularly for outdoor activities and school study visits**
- **Using a high factor sunscreen (SPF 15+) that is effective against UVA and UVB**

You can help by encouraging your child to bring, and wear, a hat at school, particularly on sports days and school visits. Also by encouraging your child to wear longer sleeved shirts and longer shorts when outdoors. Dermatologists recommend that a sunscreen with sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or above that is effective against UVA and UVB will provide children in this country with adequate protection.

**School encourages parents to apply sunscreen before pupils come to school** and, if you wish, to provide sunscreen for reapplication in school at lunchtime. If a pupil is to use sunscreen at school, parents are asked to:

1. Provide the sunscreen product for school use. The sunscreen must be:
  - Clearly marked with the child's name
  - Replenished by the parent as needed.
2. The sunscreen product will be stored in a location designated by the teacher.
3. The child must be able to apply their own sunscreen.
4. Parents are asked to apply sunscreen at home before the school day. Children will be encouraged to reapply before they go for lunch.

Please complete the attached form so that the school has a record of your support for the sun safety policy and your wishes with regards to sunscreen use by your child/ren. Please note that the school does not permit the use of aerosol sprays.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M Davis  
Headteacher

**St Peter's Primary School  
Parent Consent Form for Sun Screen Use**

The school wishes to encourage pupils to protect themselves from the sun. One way of doing this is to use sunscreen at the appropriate time. You are asked to sign this form to show that you have received the letter about the school's approach to sun safety and support the school's policy.

If your child has any allergies or skin sensitivities, you may want to check with your GP before providing a sunscreen. The school will inform you if your child's has any adverse reaction that may be due to the sunscreen.

**PUPIL DETAILS**

Name (s):

Year group (s):

Please tick:

I have read and support the schools sun safety policy as set out in the Sun Safety information letter

I will provide my child/ren with a non-aerosol sunscreen product (SPF 15+) that is effective against UVA and UVB for use at school and on school outings in accordance with school's procedures

Name .....

Signature .....

Date .....

## SUN PROTECTION

### CONTENTS:

1. The Law
2. Key Action Points
3. Questions and Answers
4. Treating a pupil with sunburn
5. Additional Information on Web sites

### 1. THE LAW

Parents/guardians are a child's main carers and have prime responsibility for their child's health. The employers, generally the LA or the school governing body has legal responsibilities under common law and also under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974.

### 2. KEY ACTION POINTS

- Protection – providing an environment that enables pupils and staff to stay safe in the sun
- Education – learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour
- Collaboration – working with parents, governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school
- Ensuring levels of sun exposure are considered in the activity documented risk assessment

### 3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### 3.1 Why is sun protection important for children and young people?

3.1.1 Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK and the number of cases is rising at an alarming rate. The good news is that the majority of these cases could be prevented. Most skin cancers are caused by UV radiation from the sun. If we protect ourselves from the sun we reduce the risk. This is particularly important for children and young people whose skin is delicate and easily damaged.

3.1.2 Sunburn in childhood can double the risk of skin cancer in later life. The damage cannot be seen immediately because skin cancer can take years to develop. But children exposed to the sun now are storing up problems for the future.

#### 3.2 What is the SunSmart campaign?

3.2.1 SunSmart is the national skin cancer prevention campaign run by Cancer Research UK. The SunSmart schools initiative encourages schools to develop and adopt sun protection policies.

3.2.2 The five key SunSmart skin cancer prevention messages are:

**S**tay in the shade 11-3

**M**ake sure you never burn

**A**lways cover up – wear a t-shirt, hat and wraparound sunglasses

**R**emember children burn more easily

**T**hen use factor 15+ sunscreen with 5 stars on the back

### 3.3 Why have a SunSmart sun protection policy?

3.3.1 We get around 80% of our sun exposure by the age of 21 and some of this exposure occurs at school. Schools have a responsibility to ensure that pupils are protected from the harmful effects of the sun as much as possible during the school day. Fair skinned people are more at risk from sun damage but sun protection is relevant to both fair and dark skinned children and adults.

3.3.2 Developing a SunSmart sun protection policy is an important step towards encouraging good health in line with the National Healthy Schools Standards.

### 3.4 What is a SunSmart sun protection policy?

These are some elements common to all sun safety policies. These include:

- **Protection:** providing an environment that enables pupils and staff to stay safe in the sun. This would include maximising the use of available shade during outdoor activities, timetabling these sensibly and considering whether additional structures (temporary or permanent) are needed to provide shade. Protection will also include encouraging pupils to wear suitable clothing and hats during outdoor activities. It is for parents to decide what sunscreen is appropriate for their child and supply it if necessary. Where it is needed sunscreen should be applied at home before school.

In some situations, particularly for more vulnerable pupils there may be a need for sunscreen to be reapplied during the school day. As far as possible the pupil should apply this themselves (under supervision if necessary). Where assistance is required (eg for very young pupils or those with a disability) then this should be applied following the same procedures that the school have in place for the administration of medication.

Physical contact with children can put teachers and support staff at risk of allegations of abuse but physical contact is not, itself, unlawful.

- **Education:** learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour
- **Collaboration:** working with parents, governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.

## 4. TREATING A PUPIL WITH SUNBURN

Would fall within the definition of first aid DfE Guidance on First Aid for Schools states: teachers and other staff in charge of pupils are expected to use their best endeavours at all times, particularly in emergencies, to secure the welfare of the pupils at the school in the same way that parents might be expected to act towards their children. In general, the consequences of taking no action are likely to be more serious than those of trying to assist in an emergency.

## 5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WEB SITES

The Health & Safety Executive: [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

N.I.C.E: <http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/documents/sunscreeninschools.pdf>

National Radiological Protection Board – [www.nrpb.org](http://www.nrpb.org)