

Lawnswood Campus



Sun Awareness Policy

Review Date: Summer 2020

Please read

Governors as Management Board
Schools as PRUs

Signed by the Chair of the Management Board: Date:

POLICY AND GUIDANCE FOR
HEALTHY SCHOOLS – SUN PROTECTION

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1. Purpose

This policy will ensure that:

- Staff and students are aware of the need for sun protection and how to implement strategies to support this
- Steps are taken during the summer months (or periods of high sun) to protect students from sun damage whilst in the care of their PRU
- Parents are aware of how they can contribute towards protecting their children from sun damage

2. Definition

What is a sun protection policy?

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

Developing a sun protection policy is an important step towards encouraging good health in line with the national Healthy Schools programme.

A sun protection policy works best when it is developed in consultation with the whole school community but is specific to each Centre.

3. Policy Statement

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 then we can reduce our risk. This is particularly important for children and young people whose skin is more delicate and easily damaged.

Sunburn in childhood can double the risk of skin cancer. You will not see the damage immediately because skin cancer can take years to develop. But young people who are exposed to the sun now are storing up problems for the future.

The five key skin cancer prevention messages are:

- stay in the shade between 11 and 3
- make sure you **never** burn

- always cover up - wear a t-shirt, hat and wraparound sunglasses
- remember children burn more easily
- use factor 15+ sunscreen.

Key messages are:

PROTECTION: providing an environment that enables students and staff to stay safe in the sun. Adequate shade is available in some locations for students to sit out of the sun, otherwise students are advised to stay in the Centre to keep out of the sun.

EDUCATION: learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour.

4. Risk Assessments

During periods of extremely hot weather an additional risk assessment may be required. Other risk assessments will include awareness of the sun policy i.e. rewards/external/residential visits during summer etc.

A letter will be sent to parents, at an appropriate time in the school year, advising parents/carers of the risk involved. They will also be advised to send their children appropriately dressed for the conditions, for example with hat, sun cream and sun glasses, this is especially necessary when students are leaving the site on a trip or visit.

5. Procedures

Particular measures have been implemented to ensure the safety of all of our students. These include:

- sun screen will be available in school and will be taken on external visits and used for students with parental permission only.
- sun screen will be re-applied as necessary and staff will provide reminders regarding this
- using PDC lessons and form time, at the appropriate time in the year, to ensure all students are aware of the dangers of exposure to too much sun
- recommending the wearing of hats, T-shirts and sunglasses when the weather warrants this
- taking immediate first aid advice if a case of sunburn is noticed
- making use of any available shade when appropriate
- ensuring students and staff drink regularly when the weather is warm and throughout their daily activities within school
- providing a timely letter or text message to inform parents of the dangers of sun damage
- providing alternative arrangements at break, lunchtime etc when the weather is too hot and presents a health and safety risk
- providing fans for use in classrooms

- keeping a log of any incidents of sun burn as part of the first aid documentation

Although each Centre will endeavor to make some sun protection cream available students will always be advised to provide and administer their own cream. This is to ensure the correct factor is used, child protection procedures are not compromised and staff put in the position of refusing to apply cream if requested.

6. Review

This policy is subject to review as part of the three year cycle

