

Sun Safety Policy

Nominated Member of Leadership Staff Responsible for the policy:

Headteacher

Nominated Board of Governing Body

Responsible for the policy:

Premises, Safeguarding and Mental Health and Well-Being Committee

Date written:

January 2025

Date agreed and ratified by Governing Body:

March 2025

Date of next review:

March 2028

This policy will be reviewed every three years, and following any concerns and / or updates to National and Local guidance or procedures

Sun Safety Policy

Introduction

At Porter Croft CE Primary Academy, we want our pupils, staff, parents and carers to enjoy the sun safely. Educating our pupils on the importance of this, including how to reduce the risk of skin damage and about safe and unsafe exposure to the sun. We also believe that schools have a central role in this 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 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 – most break times are at least that long
- Pupils spend an average of 1.5 hours outside per day, more if involved in sports or outdoor activities.
- Research has shown that sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer.

Our Approach

Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK and the number of cases is rising at an alarming rate.

We all need some sun to make enough vitamin D. Enjoying the sun safely, while taking care not to burn, should help most people get a good balance without raising the risk of skin cancer

At Porter Croft CE Primary Academy, we acknowledge the importance of sun protection and want our pupils and staff to enjoy the sun safely.

We will work with staff, students and parents to achieve this through education and protection

Risk Reduction Measures

Shade - children are encouraged to sit in the shade in the playground and field on hot days and are requested to do this when staff notice that individuals have not sought shade for a while or look hot.

Sun shades (natural and man-made) are available for children to sit under.

The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.

Indoor alternatives – on days when the sun is particularly fierce or temperatures very high, staff supervising break times will reduce the amount of time spent outside by bringing children inside to play with friends for the remainder of the break time.

Access to water – children are encouraged to take water bottles with them wherever they go during the summer term so that they do not become dehydrated.

Sun cream – members of staff remind children to re-apply sun cream before outdoor break times

Role Modelling

Members of staff are encouraged to act as role models by:

Wearing protective hats and clothing when outside

Applying SPF 15+ sunscreen

Seeking shade whenever possible / appropriate