



# Whitecross Nursery School

## Sun Safety & High Temperature Policy

Reviewed by	Claire FitzPatrick
Date of last review	May 2023
Date of next review	January 2025
Ratified by the Governing Body	January 2024

This policy will be reviewed sooner if there is a change to legislation or guidance which may affect it. Any changes will be communicated to all stakeholders.

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#### **Statement of intent**

At Whitecross Nursery School, we are committed to ensuring our school community is kept safe at all times. The school recognises the risks to health posed by overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The school also recognises that children are at greater risk of ill-health from heat than adults as they cannot control their body temperature as efficiently because they do not sweat as much.

This policy outlined the framework in which our nursery school will identify, manage and minimise the risks of hot weather and UV rays to our staff and children. The procedures outlined in this policy will be adhered to by all staff members, children, parents and visitors whilst on the school premises or attending a school event.

#### **Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) (2022) 'Looking after children and those in early years settings during heatwaves: for teachers and other educational professionals'
- UKHSA (2023) 'Adverse Weather and Health Plan: Protecting health from weather related harm'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- First Aid Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
- Supporting Childrens with Medical Conditions Policy

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring consent is sought from parents to ensure staff have permission to apply sunscreen to children.
- Ensuring staff have received appropriate training and guidance on the stipulations in this policy, and ensuring staff act in accordance with this policy.
- Determining if the school should be closed and children should be sent home due to hot temperatures.
- Ensuring classroom temperatures are maintained at an appropriate level.
- Ensuring that staff model good practice in terms of sun safety.
- Ensuring that staff understand the precautions for children in terms of sun safety, e.g. wearing sun-safe hats.
- Ensuring that the relevant staff sign up to receive Weather-Health alerts from the UKHSA and the Met Office.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy.
- Modelling good practice in terms of sun safety.
- Ensuring that children have the appropriate sun-safe clothing and sunscreen on.
- Encouraging children to stay appropriate hydrated.
- Ensuring sunscreen is only applied to a child where consent has been provided and in line with this policy.
- Recognising and being alert to the signs of heat stress, heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

Parents are responsible for:

- Sending their children to school with the necessary sun safety precautions, e.g. sunscreen already applied, hats and water bottles.
- Completing the [Parental Consent to Apply Sunscreen](#) form.
- Encouraging their children to practice sun-safe precautions.

- Applying all day sunscreens for the ultimate protection for children throughout the day where possible.

## **Minimising risks**

The school is committed to ensuring the welfare and wellbeing of children. To minimise the risk of ill health during high temperatures, the school will:

- Encourage staff and children to keep as much of their skin as possible covered up during the Summer months.
- Encourage staff and children to use sunscreen of at least sun protection factor (SPF) [15](#) with UVA protection on any part of the body that they cannot cover up.
- Use sunscreen in accordance with the product's instructions.
- Encourage staff and children to take their breaks in the shade, if possible, rather than staying out in the sun.
- Reschedule work/outdoor lessons to minimise UV exposure.
- Situate water points and rest areas in the shade.
- Encourage staff and children to eat normally and drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- Encourage staff and parents to check their skin regularly for any unusual moles or spots and refer themselves to a qualified medical practitioner where necessary.
- Encourage the removal of PPE during rest periods, to help facilitate heat loss.
- Ensure all staff members, children and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, this policy.
- Where a child has suffered from a sun-related illness, e.g. sunstroke, a trained first aider will provide appropriate support in accordance with the school's First Aid Policy.

The following measures to protect staff and children indoors will be considered:

- Opening windows as early as possible in the morning before children arrive – where the outdoor air is warmer than the air indoors, windows will be closed whilst considering the need to maintain adequate ventilation and air quality.
- Minimising the use of electrical lighting and electrical equipment, e.g. computers, monitors and printers, including switching anything off that is not in use.
- Using teaching spaces with a cooler temperature that are less prone to overheating wherever possible and adjusting the layout of classrooms to avoid direct sunlight on people
- Using outdoor sun awnings where available, and closing indoor blinds or curtains without blocking window ventilation
- Using oscillating mechanical fans to increase air movement if temperatures are below 35°C
- Adjusting school start and finish times, and break times, e.g. extending the morning break and shortening lunchtime, to minimise time spent at school and outdoors in high temperatures.
- Encouraging children to eat normally and drink plenty of water

Where relevant to their role, staff members will be provided with training on the dangers of high temperatures, including how to recognise and respond to heat illness. All first aid training provided to staff members will cover heat illness.

## **Clothing**

During the summer months, when temperatures reach above [25°C](#), everyone working at or attending the school will be encouraged to protect their face, neck and ears using a sun-safe hat with a wide brim. Baseball caps or visors are not considered sun-safe hats.

Children without sun-safe hats will only be permitted to play in an area protected from the sun, unless a sun-safe hat has been provided.

Everyone working at or attending the school during daylight hours will be required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible. This includes wearing:

- Light-coloured and loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered necklines.
- Longer style skirts, shorts or trousers.
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.

During hot weather, lightweight clothing will be required to reduce the risk of overheating.

Children will be advised not to wear their jumpers or blazers during hot weather.

Children not wearing sun-safe clothing will be required to play in an area protected from the sun, if spare clothing cannot be provided.

Staff will encourage children to wear UV protected sunglasses when possible.

## **Sunscreen**

Everyone working at or attending the school will be required to apply at least SPF [15](#) broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen [20](#) minutes before going outside. Parents are requested to apply an all-day sunscreen as our very young children struggle to have sunscreen re-applied every two hours. If this is now applied by families then staff will need to support children to reapply every [two hours](#).

Children will be asked to provide their own spare sunscreen in a bottle labelled with their name.

A reserve supply of sunscreen will be stored in the [utility room](#) for children who forget theirs. Sunscreen will be stored in a cool, dry place and the expiry date will be monitored. Sunscreen will be self-administered, under supervision, where possible.

Teachers and other staff members will not be encouraged, and will not be required, to apply sunscreen to children, due to the potential for allegations of abuse. Any allegations will be handled in line with the school's Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.

Where a teacher or other staff member agrees to apply sunscreen to children, such as to our youngest children or a child with SEND, another member of staff will witness the application and parental consent will be obtained beforehand.

Teachers and other staff members will only apply sunscreen to children's faces, necks and arms.

Letters will be sent home during the spring term asking for parental permission for school staff to apply, and supervise the application of, sunscreen to children.

## **Outdoor activities**

On days above [25°C](#), outdoor learning will only involve activities that are not overly strenuous.

All outdoor activities will be planned to take place in shaded areas as much as possible. Activities will be set up in the shade and moved throughout the day to stay in the shade.

On days above [28°C](#), PE lessons and outdoor activities, including play times, will be held indoors to prevent any kind of illness resulting from physical activities in hot conditions. The Headteacher will decide if a school trip needs to be cancelled for safety reasons due to high temperatures, with regard paid to weather forecast, the age of children attending, and the extent of physical activity required.

## Hot weather procedures

The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 stipulate the temperatures that classrooms should be kept at, which are detailed below:

Area	Temperature
Where there is a below normal level of physical activity	21°C
Where there is a normal level of physical activity	18°C
Where there is a high level of physical activity,	15°C

Windows will be opened where possible to allow natural ventilation; where windows cannot be opened or it is unsafe to do so, alternative means of artificial ventilation will be available.

A sufficient number of thermometers will be available to ensure temperatures can be measured in any part of the school. The site manager will ensure appropriate and effective ventilation procedures can be implemented to address school days where the indoor working temperature risks exceeding [24°C](#).

The Headteacher will email parents reminding them to send their children to school with appropriate clothing, sunscreen and a sufficient amount of water.

Where the indoor temperature exceeds [26°C](#) and ventilation measures are unable to address this, the Headteacher will decide if the premises are unsuitable for working. In this event, a statement will be issued to parents via text message or email, stating that children must be sent home, specifying the timeframe by which children need to be collected.

The school will ensure that relevant staff, including teachers, [sign up to receive Weather-Health Alerts](#) from the UKHSA and the Met Office.

## Childrens and staff at greater risk

### Childrens

The school recognises that some children will be more susceptible to high temperatures. This includes:

- Children under 4 years of age
- Childrens who are overweight
- Childrens taking certain medications
- Childrens with disabilities, complex health needs, and specific medical conditions or disorders, e.g. albinism.

The school nurse or relevant professionals involved in the children's care will be asked to advise on particular needs for a children. The school will follow any medical advice and all relevant members of staff will be made aware of the risks and how to manage them.

The school's Supporting Childrens with Medical Conditions Policy will be adhered to at all times.

### Staff

Members of staff who are more susceptible to high temperatures will be asked to consult their GP or other relevant professionals and share with the school advice on additional precautions to take.

General precautions, e.g. being excused from outside playground duty, will be implemented where appropriate for staff members with medical conditions, including those who are pregnant.

### **Ill health**

The most common risk to health from heat is dehydration and sunburn. The school will take all sensible precautions to prevent adverse effects, including ensuring children wear sunscreen, limit their time exposed to direct sunlight, and are drinking enough fluids.

Relevant staff members will be made aware of how to recognise the signs that a children may be suffering from ill health due to the heat. This includes the following:

**Heat stress** – Children may appear out of character or show signs of discomfort and irritability, including the symptoms listed below for heat exhaustion. These signs will worsen with physical activity and if left untreated can lead to heat exhaustion or heatstroke.

For children and children who use nappies, dark urine or dry nappies may indicate dehydration and the need for more fluids.

**Heat exhaustion** – Symptoms can vary but typically include one or more of the following:

- Tiredness
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Excessive sweating and pale, clammy skin

Where a child is suffering from heat exhaustion, the following steps will be taken immediately:

- Moving the child to as cool a room as possible and encouraging them to drink cold water
- Cooling the child as rapidly as possibly, using whatever methods possible, e.g. sponging or spraying the child with cool water, placing cold packs around the neck and armpits, wrapping the child in a cool, wet sheet, and assisting cooling with a fan.
- Where the child does not respond to treatment within 30 minutes, an ambulance will be called.
- If the child loses consciousness or has a fit, they will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called immediately; treatment to cool the child will continue until the ambulance arrives.

**Heatstroke** – This can develop when heat stress or heat exhaustion is left untreated, but it can also occur suddenly and without warning. Heatstroke is a medical emergency and can be fatal. Symptoms include:

- High body temperature (at or above 40°C is a major sign)
- Red, hot skin that can be sweaty or dry
- Fast heartbeat
- Fast shallow breathing
- Confusion or lack of co-ordination
- Seizures or fits
- Loss of consciousness
- Diarrhoea

Where a child is suspected to be suffering from heatstroke, 999 will be called immediately and the child will be cooled down in line with the procedures for managing heat illness outlined above whilst awaiting medical assistance.

Where a child loses consciousness or experiences a fit, they will be placed in the recovery position, 999 will be called immediately and staff will follow the operator's instructions.

### **Curriculum**

Children will be taught about the dangers of the sunlight, including sunbeds, and information about sun protection will be incorporated into the curriculum for all ages.

Sun protection will be actively promoted to children at key points of the year, such as before and during the summer term, through group teaching, modelling good practice and adult led teaching. Information regarding sun protection will be sent to parents during the spring and summer terms.

### **Monitoring and review**

The Headteacher is responsible for reviewing this policy annually.

When evaluating the effectiveness of this policy the following methods will be considered:

- Gathering feedback from staff and parents.
- Monitoring all incidences of sunburn to see if these are decreasing.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is January 2025

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff, parents and children.

# Whitecross Nursery School

## Parental Consent to Apply Sunscreen

I recognise that too much UV exposure may increase my child's risk of sunburn and other associated problems.

I, therefore, give permission to the staff at Whitecross Nursery School apply a sunscreen product with a sun protection factor of **30** or higher to my child, as specified below, when my child will be playing outside in hot conditions.

I further understand that sunscreen will only be applied to the face, tops of ears, nose, bare shoulders, arms and legs.

*Please complete the form below to ensure the school has all applicable information regarding the use of sunscreen for your child:*

I give staff permission to apply sunscreen to my child.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
My child burns easily.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If you answered yes to the above, please provide more information, e.g. if your child has albinism:		
My child has the following allergies:		
Staff may apply sunscreen to my child but, for medical reasons, only the following brands can be used:		
Staff may apply sunscreen to my child but only to the following areas of my child's body:		

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the school office by .....