



Castle Park Primary School

Sun Protection Policy

1. Rationale

The health and wellbeing of our students and staff are of paramount importance. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun is most prevalent during the summer months. While some sunlight is necessary for vitamin D, overexposure to UV rays can cause sunburn, eye damage, and significantly increase the risk of skin cancer later in life. Because children's skin is delicate and easily damaged, this policy aims to protect our school community while ensuring they can still enjoy the outdoors safely.

2. Objectives

This policy outlines our commitment to:

- **Protection:** Providing an environment that enables students and staff to stay safe in the sun.
- **Education:** Incorporating sun safety education into the curriculum.
- **Collaboration:** Working closely with parents and the wider community to reinforce sun safety behaviours.

3. Protection Strategies

Shade:

- The school will make efforts to maximize the use of shaded areas around the school grounds (e.g., trees, canopies and covered outdoor areas).
- During peak UV hours (e.g. 11:00 am to 3:00 pm), students will be encouraged or directed to use shaded areas during unstructured play, lunch breaks, and outdoor events.
- Outdoor events such as sports days or assemblies may be scheduled in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid peak sun intensity whenever possible.

Clothing:

- Students are encouraged to wear sensible, sun-protective clothing that covers as much skin as possible. This includes collared shirts, t-shirts, and longer shorts/trousers.
- All students are encouraged to wear a wide-brimmed, bucket, or legionnaire-style hat when participating in outdoor activities. (Caps do not offer adequate protection for the neck and ears).
- Bucket hats are available for children in reception, year one and year two to wear in the classroom outdoor areas in the warm weather.

Sunscreen:

- Parents are asked to apply a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen (SPF 30, or 50+) to their child before the school day begins.
- Students should bring a clearly named bottle of sunscreen to school to reapply before lunchtime.
- Students are to apply sunscreen themselves if needed before lunch, staff are not able to apply sunscreen.

Hydration:

- Students will have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day.
- Students should bring a named, reusable water bottle to school and take it with them during PE lessons and outdoor excursions.

4. Education and Curriculum

- Sun safety will be actively promoted to students through our Health and Wellbeing Curriculum.
- Educational materials will be used to teach students *why* and *how* to protect themselves from UV damage.
- Sun safety reminders will be routinely communicated to students as part of our health and wellbeing initiatives.

Staff Role Models:

- Staff members are expected to act as positive role models by seeking shade, wearing sun-protective clothing/hats, and applying sunscreen during outdoor duties and activities.

Communication and Collaboration

- This policy will be made available to all parents and staff on the school website and included in new student enrolment packs.
- Parents will be regularly reminded of the policy via the school newsletter and Schoop messaging system, particularly at the beginning of the summer term.
- Parents are encouraged to reinforce sun safety practices at home and ensure their child arrives at school equipped with a hat, water bottle and sunscreen.

Review and Monitoring

- This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure it remains effective and aligned with the Cancer Research UK advice.
- Policy Approved by Mrs Kate Wise Chair of Governors
- Policy Implemented by Mrs Harriet Wadsworth Head teacher
- Date of Review May 2028

