

Sun Ready Challenge!

Policy checklist

A school sun safety policy should cover 3 elements:

1. Protection: keeping everyone sun safe
2. Education: helping pupils and staff learn about sun safety
3. Community: collaborating with parents, governors and the wider community

Developing a policy

1. Evaluate what the school is already doing in terms of sun protection:

- How much shade is available outdoors?
- Do pupils wear sun hats?
- How much time do children spend outside during the lunch break?
- Is sun cream being used and how well?
- Is sun safety part of the curriculum?

2. Set up a planning meeting to develop the policy

- Invite governors, the health and safety coordinator, the school nurse, teachers and parents.
- Establish who will write the policy.

3. Create a draft policy

- Consult the key groups listed above.
- Assess any potential issues in relation to implementing the policy.
- Clarify who is responsible for implementing each aspect.
- Agree a timescale.

4. Amend the draft policy

- Present the draft document to the staff for discussion.
- Create a final document.

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5. Implement the policy

- Ensure that everyone is aware of it, especially pupils and parents.

6. Review the policy annually

- Evaluate how effective it has been.
- Assess how well it has changed levels of awareness (particularly among parents) and pupil behaviour.

Action plan

The sun safety policy may well raise the need for an action plan addressing key sun safety issues within school, such as:

1. The need for more trees and shade structures in the school grounds.
2. Continued communication with parents over sun safety.
3. Timetabling: for example, discussion about planning for outdoor PE in the early morning rather than afternoon in the summer term.
4. Ensuring pupil clothing is appropriate.
5. Allowing sunglasses.
6. Teachers modelling good sun safe behaviour (wearing hats outdoors for example).

Sun cream: ensuring permission letters are in place; clarity regarding the use of sun cream; possible purchase of spare sun cream for children who forget theirs.



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Dear Parent or Guardian,

With a forecast of sunny weather for the coming days we would like to remind you of how you can help keep your child sun safe at school. If possible children should:

- wear a hat when outside
- wear a T-shirt or top that covers the shoulders
- wear sunglasses
- use sun cream with SPF 30+
- drink plenty of water

The sun's rays are particularly strong over the summer and they can damage children's skin, leading to serious medical conditions in later life.

Our aim is to ensure that your children can enjoy being outdoors safely.

Thank you for your help,