



Ashton Keynes C of E Primary School

Sun Protection Policy

Reviewed February 2026

Review due February 2029

SUN PROTECTION POLICY FOR ASHTON KEYNES PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Ashton Keynes Primary School we want staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely. We will work with staff, pupils, parents and carers to achieve this by raising awareness.

RATIONAL

Too much exposure to ultraviolet light (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer, sunburn in childhood can double the risk of skin cancer. The good news is the majority of cases could be prevented, if we protect ourselves from the sun then we can reduce our risk. This is particularly important for children whose skin is more delicate and easily damaged. There is enormous potential for schools to help prevent skin cancer in future generations. Schools are central to protecting children's skin this is 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 the school years.
- Schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through role modelling and education.
- Students and teachers are at risk of sunburn within 10-15 minutes of being exposed to strong sunlight.
- Students spend an average of 1.5 hours outside per school day, more if involved in sports and outdoor activities.
- Skin cancer is largely preventable through behaviour modification and sun protection during early years.

Local Authority responsibilities

The local authority will monitor the arrangements for sun protection as part of its regular health and safety monitoring visits to schools.

School responsibilities

Schools have a responsibility to ensure that pupils are protected from the harmful effects of the sun as much as possible during the school day and adopts the procedures outlined in this policy.

The main elements of this policy are:

- **Partnership:** working with parents/carers, governors, our school nurse and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.
- **Education:** learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour.
- **Protection:** providing an environment that enables pupils and staff to stay safe in the sun.

PARTNERSHIP

- Sun safety will be promoted through working with parents, governors and the wider community to improve our understanding and provision to avoid the harmful effects of too much exposure to ultraviolet light (UV). Extra communication will be made via ParentMail during periods of high risk weather with sun safety precaution reminders.

- Staff should act as positive role models and set a good example by seeking out the shade whenever possible and wearing suitable clothing, hat and sunscreen.

EDUCATION

- Children are regularly reminded about the importance of 'Sun Safety'. This will emphasise the 5 S's of Sun Safety including:
SLIP SLOP SLAP - to SLIP ON A T-SHIRT, SLOP ON THE SUNSCREEN, SLAP ON A HAT.
- At appropriate times during the year children will be reminded through our assemblies about 'How to be Sun Safe'.
- Parents and Guardians will be asked through school communications to support this policy by encouraging their children to adopt the Slip, Slop, Slap message and act as role models. Children will be encouraged to use the shaded areas of the school during playtimes. During extreme weather pupils would be kept inside the building if required.
- Children must bring a labelled water bottle to school and make sure they keep hydrated particularly in warmer weather.

Be SMART

Stay in the shade between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Make sure you never burn

Always cover up – wear a t-shirt, hat and wraparound sunglasses

Remember children burn more easily

Then use sunscreen at least factor 15 as an minimum – recommended factor 50

How to protect children in the sun

- ✓ Remember that infants must be kept out of the sun entirely, while children with fair skin will burn easily;
- ✓ If a child is not exposed to direct sunlight, sunscreen is not usually necessary;
- ✓ Children should be encouraged to play in the shade wearing good protective clothing;
- ✓ Sunscreen use does not allow an increase in the time spent in sunlight;
- ✓ Make sure you use enough sunscreen; approximately 20ml is usually enough for the child's entire body;
- ✓ Remember that some sunscreens come off through contact with water, sweating or rubbing with a towel;
- ✓ Re-apply sunscreen several times during a day in the sun;
- ✓ Keep children out of the sun between 11am and 3pm, when the sun's rays are at their strongest

PROTECTION

Shade:

- The school playground has shade provided either by the school building, outdoor shelter, outdoor canopies (attached to buildings/hall) and mature trees. If required, for events additional gazebo's can be utilized e.g. sports day.
- Children will be encouraged to use the shaded areas of the school during playtimes when appropriate.
- The availability of shade provision is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.
- Support recommendations to seek shade during breaks and lunchtimes.
- In consultation with the education department, shade provision is a consideration when planning future buildings and grounds.

Clothing:

- The children will be encouraged to wear clothes that provide good sun protection.
- The children will be encouraged to supply themselves with legionnaire or bucket style hats to protect their face, ears and back of their neck. The hats will remain in school at all times (between March and end of September) and be easily accessible.
- Children's eyes are very sensitive to light. It is important therefore to protect their eyes by ensuring they wear wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses if possible.

Sunscreen:

- Each pupil will be encouraged to supply themselves with sunscreen (minimum *SPF 15, with broad spectrum UVA protection) this should be applied prior to school. They may then reapply themselves when appropriate and be used on or off-site for any prolonged outdoor school related activities. Children may only use their own sunscreen. Parents/Carers are asked to teach their children how to sensibly use and apply these screens and will clearly label them and put them in their child's bag for their own use. There is no health and safety reason why school staff cannot apply sunscreen to a pupil however this would only been done if absolutely necessary due to time constraints - children are expected to apply sunscreen themselves.

***SPF** is the Sun Protection Factor, the higher the number the greater the protection offered if the sunscreen is used correctly.

Drinking Water:

- Children are encouraged to increase their water intake in hot weather and are encouraged to drink water during break times and lunch times. Every child should bring a labelled refillable water bottle to school every day.

What to do if a child gets sunburn

- The parent/carer will be notified.

The following is advised:

- Always consult a doctor if a pupil has been sunburnt;
- Consult a doctor if blisters or rash appear;
- Consult a doctor if the skin is very red and painful;
- Consider calamine lotion to cool sunburn;
- Cool the sunburnt area in tepid water (approximately 25c) for 30 mins to an hour;
- Be careful the child does not get cold;
- A pharmacist will be able to provide advice about after-sun products, some of which may be useful for cooling and re-moisturising the skin.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Date of issue February 2026

Date review due February 2029