



SOUTH DARLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUN AWARENESS POLICY

Person/Committee responsible for reviewing/updating this plan	Headteacher
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Sun Awareness

There is a well established link between exposure to the sun and skin cancer. This is an issue that could affect both staff and pupils although pupils (particularly younger pupils) are more vulnerable as they may become overexposed without being fully aware of the risks.

- There is increasing evidence that excessive sun exposure and particularly sunburn when aged under 15 is a major risk factor for skin cancer in later life. Protection of the skin of children and adolescents is therefore particularly important.
- Individuals who develop skin cancer do not always have a history of deliberate sunbathing.

With this in mind South Darley CE Primary School has adopted appropriate measures to control exposure to the sun for both staff and pupils. Control measures which this school has adopted include:-

- Advising parents of the need for pupils to wear appropriate clothing that gives protection from the sun during the summer months. This includes an appropriate hat (that offers protection to the neck as well as face), long sleeved loose fitting tops and long trousers. Staff are also made aware of the need for appropriate clothing if outside during these times. The school encourages the use of a red legionnaire hat with the school logo on and these can be ordered and purchased through the school office at cost price. Friends of South Darley School have historically purchased a school hat for children new to the school and this is reviewed on a yearly basis. Infant's hats are kept in school and juniors are responsible for bringing their own.
- Parents are encouraged to apply waterproof sunscreen which gives complete protection (of the highest factor available) to all exposed areas of the skin prior to sending pupils to school, and, providing a supply for use in school (of the spray-type for younger pupils which staff can apply and pupils can rub-in, thereby reducing the need for physical contact). Staff are also encouraged to use appropriate sunscreen where necessary.
- During sunny periods the school tries to create shaded areas in the external parts of the school that can be used by pupils and staff during break times.
- External activities (e.g. short duration trips, external lessons and sports days) are planned, when possible, for times when the sun is likely to be at its lowest strength (and the temperature at its lowest) e.g. at the start of the school day rather than late morning or in the afternoon.
- The school will duly consider postponing or cancelling events such as those above in periods of excessive sun and high temperatures.
- Whilst pupils are away on school trips which are residential or last all day, they will be encouraged to bring and apply their own sunscreen and be reminded to do this at appropriate intervals. Provision will be made for sunscreen to be applied to the pupil(s) back because it is impossible for the pupil(s) to apply the cream on their own back. Pupils will be encouraged to wear shirts thus negating the need for this but in certain circumstances this may not be practical.
(NB The back is the main area susceptible to sunburn and melanoma)
- Parents are encouraged to inform the school regarding this particular issue if:
 - a) the child is fair skinned and prone to burning (redhead/blond!) and

b) there is a family history of skin cancer especially melanomas.

- The school will consider allowing pupils to remain indoors if no shade is available during breaks (assuming adequate supervision is available).
- During summer months the school will ensure staff rotas are such that the same members of staff are not on duty outside in exposed areas during the higher risk parts of the day.

South Darley CE Primary School is aware that summer conditions can lead to excessive heat and the problems this can cause if pupils become dehydrated. Pupils and staff will have regular access to drinks, especially drinking water.

Cancer research's sunsmart website provided useful information on action to take to protect employees from excessive exposure and possible long term damage. It also has an extensive section on children in schools.

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/healthyliving/sunsmart/>