

THORP PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY: SUN SAFETY POLICY



Date approved by Governors: Autumn Term 2016

Proposed date for review: 2018

Thorp Primary School
Westerdale Drive
Royton
Oldham
OL2 5TY

Telephone 0161 770 5475

THORP PRIMARY SCHOOL **SUN SAFETY POLICY**

Introduction

At Thorp Primary School we believe that children should enjoy the sunshine and the benefits of fresh air. However our school aims to protect our children and staff from possible skin damage caused by the harmful effects of ultra violet rays in sunlight. We aim to communicate the following key sun safety messages (in order of priority) to parents, staff and children:-

- take care not to burn;
- cover up with loose fitting clothing and wear a hat;
- find shade in the hottest part of the day;
- use a high factor sun screen (SPF 15 or above) on exposed areas of skin;

Whole School Sun Safety Considerations

As part of our sun safety policy we will:

- educate our children through planned learning opportunities in the curriculum about the causes of skin cancer and how to protect the skin;
- regularly remind children, staff and parents about sun safety through newsletter, posters, parents meetings and activities for the children;
- invite relevant health professionals to advise the school on sun safety;
- actively discourage sunbathing during school time;
- encourage children to wear hats and clothing that covers the shoulders, upper arms and things to provide good sun protection in summer;
- work towards increasing the provision of adequate shade for everyone;
- expect parents to apply sunscreen to exposed areas of skin on their children prior to coming to school;
- encourage children to cover up for outdoor activities and use areas of shade whenever possible;
- remind parents by letter about the key messages prior to outdoor events when children will be exposed to the sun for longer periods of time;
- remind parents and children that more fluids are required on hot days to prevent dehydration;
- find out from parents which individual children have particular sensitivity to the sun and include this information in their record of special medical needs and if appropriate consider arrangements for meeting their individual sun safety needs.

EYFS Sun Safety Considerations

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Due to the young age and maturity of our children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) additional consideration is required to ensure that their sun safety needs are met. Good practice in the EYFS promotes a play based approach to learning and encourages the continuous use of outdoor provision; therefore children in our EYFS setting may require improved sun protection.

In order to respond, as far as practicable to these considerations the following additional sun safety responses are offered for our children in the EYFS:-

- Parents are expected to apply sunscreen (SPF15+) to exposed areas of skin on their children prior to coming to school.
- Whilst outside during sunny weather, children in the EYFS are required to wear a wide brimmed hat or cap (any children who doesn't have a hat in school will be given a spare one to wear), only prescription sunglasses are allowed.
- School provide a hypo-allergenic factor 50 sun cream for self-application by the child, under adult supervision. Parents must sign a permission/consent form (copy attached as Appendix A).
- Children will be responsible for applying their own sunscreen. This will be done under adult supervision and usually at a designated time of the day (e.g. lunchtime) to minimise cumulative exposure to the sun.
- More fluids are required on hot days to prevent dehydration; Children have set water breaks and are also allowed to get a drink whenever they want.

Sun Safety at School

The sun safety policy is operated throughout school and through a variety of measures we seek to help the children to understand the key sun safety messages and to protect them from the harmful effects of the sun.

The school believes that by encouraging sun safe behaviour at school and teaching children about the risks of exposure to sunlight, we can prevent pupils from sunburn and potential skin damage from over exposure to the sun.

The school is constantly reviewing the amount of shade available to children on our premises and will continue to promote the sun safety message to parents and children.

Sun Safety Messages

The SunSmart skin cancer prevention message promotes the SMART code:

Stay in the shade
 Make sure you never burn
 Always cover up with a shirt, hat and sunglasses
 Remember to take extra care with children
 Then use at least factor 15+ sunscreen

Slip, slop, slap, seek, slide sun safety message

Slip on a shirt!
 Slop on sunscreen!
 Slap on a hat
 Seek shade!
 Slide on sunglasses!

The following websites provide detailed sun safety advice and guidance:

www.sunsmart.org.uk

www.safekids.co.uk

www.nhs.uk/livewell/sunsafetyQA

EYFS parental consent letter *attached* as Appendix A

Thorp Primary School

Example letter to parents of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Sun Safety: Sunscreen Protection (EYFS)

As part of our Sun Safety Policy we recognise that children in the Early Years Foundation Stage may be more at risk of over exposure to the sun. This may be a consequence of the age and maturity of the children and the increased length of times that children may spend outdoors due to the Early Years curriculum.

In order to respond, as far as practicable to these considerations parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen (SPF 15+) to exposed areas of their skin prior to coming to school. However, some parents may if they wish provide sunscreen for their own child (in a named dispenser) to be held centrally by school to allow children to self administer the same, under adult supervision.

Please complete the permission slip below and return to school only if you wish to provide sunscreen for self application by your child. Please advise school if your child has any allergies or skin sensitivities.

Yours sincerely

S. G. Bennett
Headteacher

Name of child _____

Class _____

I have provided sunscreen in a named dispenser for my child and am happy for this to be self applied under the supervision of an adult.

Name of parent _____

Signed _____