

Greasby Infant School



SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Mission Statement

We aim to provide a happy, relaxed environment where children are encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential, and to develop an attitude of care and responsibility towards others and their surroundings.

We ensure that the children in this school will attain the highest standards of which they are capable. We encourage the children to be independent and self-confident and we believe that this can be achieved more readily when teachers, parents and pupils work together in partnership.

Introduction

Too much sun can cause skin damage including sunburn, premature ageing and skin cancer. It is an issue for all ages but extra care is needed with children as sunburn during childhood can lead to long-term skin damage including cancer.

According to the British Skin Foundation (May 2015), skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the UK, and rates continue to rise. At least 100,000 new cases are now diagnosed each year, and the disease kills over 2,500 people each year in the UK – that's seven people every day.

At Greasby Infant School we are committed to the following principles of sun protection:

Take care not to burn
Head for shade around the middle of the day
Use a high factor sunscreen

Aims

- To provide an environment in which pupils are protected from over exposure to the sun.
- To promote awareness with pupils, parents and staff of the effects of the sun and of appropriate preventative strategies.

The Organisation of the Policy in School

The guidance in this policy will be reinforced every year both before and during periods of hot weather.

The Curriculum – Sun awareness and sun safety are addressed through assemblies, PSHE, PE, Science as well as opportunities provided by visitors such as the school nurse.

Clothing - Pupils are encouraged to wear sun hats for all outdoor activities and are not permitted to remove tops during outdoor activities.

Sunscreen – parents are requested to use an appropriate sunscreen for their children. This should be applied at home before coming to school. Sunscreen can be purchased which will provide protection all day. Staff will encourage children and parents to use sunscreen during the hot weather.

Water – All children are encouraged to have a named water bottle and these can be purchased from the school office. Children are encouraged to take frequent drinks both from their water bottle and the water fountains.

Outdoor Activities – During periods of hot weather pupils will be encouraged to avoid over-exposure to the sun at breaktimes. We have some shaded areas in the playgrounds and the children are encouraged to use these during breaktimes. Careful consideration is given to the timing, length, location and nature of outdoor P.E. activities during hot weather to prevent over-exposure to the sun.

Educational Visits – Pupils will be encouraged to wear appropriate clothing when on school visits, especially if the majority of the visit is outdoor. Parents will be asked to provide a sun hat and use sun screen to protect children from over-exposure to the sun. Being aware of the risks associated with over-exposure to the sun, staff will give careful consideration to the timing, length, location and nature of school visits.

Staff – All staff will be made aware of the policy and how they can act as role models for the children e.g. wearing sun hats, sunscreen etc during periods of very hot weather. All staff will reinforce sun safety messages through a range of curriculum activities.

Midday assistants will also encourage pupils to seek shady areas at lunchtime and be vigilant for pupils who may be in danger of spending too long in the sun. They will encourage children to wear sun hats and access the drinking fountains.

Parents – All parents will be reminded of sun safety issues on a regular basis especially during periods of hot weather, through school newsletters and other forms of communication e.g. school web site. Working in partnership with the school, parents will support the implementation of this policy to ensure that all children are protected from the effects of over-exposure to the sun.

Health and Safety

Greasby Infant School follows Wirral Local Authority Health & Safety guidelines and documents related to Sun Safety can be found in the Headteacher's office.

Safety in the Sun – Guidance Document HS/ECS/056 May 2006

www.cancerresearchuk.org/sunsmart

www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/issuesandrisks/sunprotection.htm

The policy will be monitored and reviewed every two years or as the need arises.

J. Hall
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