



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

SUN SAFETY POLICY

Issue Date: July 2021

Review Date: July 2023

Review Date	Changes Required	Name & Position

Introduction

This policy represents the agreed principles for sun protection throughout St Charles' and continues to reflect our status as a Healthy School.

We want our staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely. We believe that sun safety is vitally important to ensure that pupils and staff are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays in sunlight. We will work hard with staff, pupils and parents/guardians to achieve this. With children spending approximately 8 hours a week outside at school it often coincides with the hottest time of the day which is 11am-3pm.

Without adequate protection, a child's delicate skin can burn in just minutes. Sun safety has to be regarded as a safeguarding concern and we have a duty of care to make sure they are protected whilst in school. There is increasing evidence that excessive sun exposure and particularly sunburn when aged 15 and under is a major risk factor for skin cancer later in life. Protection of the skin of children and adolescents is therefore particularly important.

There is often misunderstanding of sunscreen application within school environment- HSE (Health and Safety Executive) states that legislation does not prevent school staff from applying or helping pupils apply sunscreen. The Department of Education say take a sensible approach. The National Union of Teachers advise teachers not to apply sunscreen to pupils due to the potential for allegations of abuse....however with parental consent obtained teachers and staff should only apply or assist to apply sunscreen to the face, neck and arms of pupils.

ALL children are to be asked to bring a wide brimmed hat (labelled with their name in) as well as sunscreen with a minimum SPF factor of 30 (ideally 50) and UVA rating of 4+ (ideally 5) that is again labelled with the child's name that will remain in school. This will be kept in a container in each classroom, together with a completed consent form from each parent.

Parents will be asked to sign a consent form at the start of each academic year stating that if necessary, if their child requires help applying sunscreen to ARMS, NECK and FACE that a staff member can help. (Or that their child needs no assistance). Also that if no sunscreen is provided that they allow their child to have the school sunscreen applied (brand, and factor will be stated).

Education

- All pupils will learn about sun safety and protecting their skin through curriculum opportunities at least once a year (use of 'SunSmart' website resources part of the Cancer research UK campaign).
- We will talk about how to be 'SunSmart' in assemblies at the start of the Pentecost term every year.
- At the beginning of the Pentecost term every year, parents/guardians will be sent a letter reminding them of the dangers of sun exposure and preventative measures, and informing them of our sun safety policy. It will explain what the school is doing about sun protection and how parents/guardians are asked to help.
- Staff will be reminded in March every year about the schools sun safety policy and the 'SunSmart' lessons that can be delivered. Information will be made available in the staff room.
- Pupils will be told to about the importance of drinking more water when it is hot and will be encouraged to bring water to school. To help prevent children (and staff) becoming dehydrated. There is evidence that pupils who have regular access to drinks throughout the day can have increased levels of concentration.
- We will regularly remind pupils, staff and parents/guardians about sun safety through newsletters and letters regarding educational visits and activities for pupils.
- Staff will be encouraged to praise pupils that adhere to sun protection guidelines.
- Parents will be encouraged to inform the school regarding this particular issue if their child is prone to burning and/or there is a family history of skin cancer.

Protection

Shading

- Staff will encourage pupils to use shady areas of the school and its grounds during breaks, lunch hours, sports days and trips out.
- We will hold outdoor activities in areas of shade whenever possible.
- We have a shade canopy at the school and will encourage pupils to use it.
- We will work towards increasing the provision of adequate shade for all pupils and staff. Giving consideration to allowing pupils to remain indoors if no shade is available e.g. during breaks/lunchtime.

Timetabling

- If the sun is too hot for PE or any other outdoor lessons they should be held under shade, inside or will have their time slot changed where appropriate.
- Outdoor activities and events should be planned outside the hours of 11am-3pm whenever possible.
- Giving consideration to postponing or cancelling events such as those in periods of excessive sun and high temperatures.
- For off-site trips, which are residential or last all day, young people will be encouraged to bring and apply their own sunscreen and be reminded to do this at appropriate intervals. For outdoor activities, appropriate clothing should be worn to ensure sensitive areas such as backs and shoulders are covered. (NB the back is the main area susceptible to sunburn and melanoma)

Clothing

- We will actively encourage all pupils to wear a sunhat (ideally with a protective back flap or a wide brim) when playing outside.
- Staff should act as good role models and lead by example by wearing wide brimmed hats when on outdoor duty or delivering lessons outdoors.
- Advising parents of the need for young people to wear appropriate clothing that gives protection from the sun during the summer months. This would include an appropriate hat (that offers protection to the neck as well as face), long sleeved loose fitting tops and long trousers. Staff should also be aware of the need for appropriate clothing if outside during these times.

Sunscreen

- The use of factor 30+ (ideally factor 50) all day sunscreen with a UVA of 5 or more will be encouraged throughout the whole school and during outdoor school trips or visits.
- We will remind parents/guardians to provide their child with sunscreen for school trips and events.
- Encouraging parents 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. For younger children, or those who may struggle to apply sunscreen, this should ideally be of the spray-type which staff can apply and pupils can rub-in, thereby reducing the need for physical contact.

Early Years and Key Stage 1

- Parents/guardians will be asked to apply sunscreen to their children before they come to school.
- Parents/guardians will be asked to sign a form giving permission for their children to bring their own sunscreen to school and apply it themselves.
- The sun cream must be labelled with the pupil's name and will be stored in crates and kept by the class teacher.
- The crates of sunscreen will be made available to the pupils during break times and lunch times.
- Pupils will be supervised with the application of their sunscreen if necessary and with parental consent to arms, neck and face.

Key Stage 2

- Parents/guardians will be asked to apply sunscreen to their children before they come to school.
- Parents/guardians will be asked to sign a form giving permission for their children to bring their own sunscreen to school and apply it themselves.
- The sun cream must be labelled with the pupil's name and will be stored in crates and kept by the class teacher.
- The pupils will be encouraged to apply sunscreen themselves before playtimes and lunchtimes.
- Pupils will be supervised with the application of their sunscreen if necessary and with parental consent to arms, neck and face.

Staff

- Staff will be encouraged to wear sunscreen during PE or outdoor lessons and when on playground duty.
- During summer months ensuring 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.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

Cancer research's sunsmart website provides 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/>

Additionally the National Heatwave plan for England contains the following guidance.

[Looking after children and those in early years settings during heatwaves: guidance for teachers and professionals](#)