The Collaboration Of Middleham VA CE And Spennithorne VC CE Primary Schools

Sun Awareness Policy

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to inform all members of the school community about why and how the school intends to protect both adults and children from the effects of the sun.

WHY DO WE NEED A SUN AWARENESS POLICY?

In recent times, it has become scientifically proven that the sun's rays are becoming ever more harmful due to changes that have occurred in the atmosphere. This means that exposure to sun can cause serious long term damage to skin, eyes and health, particularly in children under twelve years of age. Such damage can lead to skin cancer. Children can also experience shorter term ill-effects caused by heat on summer days, for example, heat stroke and dehydration. This is extremely important for children within the Early Years foundation stage who experience extended periods of outdoor learning.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE POLICY?

Using a combination of information and education, we aim to ensure that all staff, parents and children are aware of the risks involved in exposure to the sun and that they are aware of measures which can be taken to minimise those risks. The school also aims to protect children's health by attempting to create a sun-safe outdoor environment.

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE THIS?

- Creating more shaded areas.
- Children will be encouraged to seek existing shade at playtimes.
- Children will be taught about the dangers of sun exposure and advised to wear sun hats and high SPF sun-screen.
- Those children who bring sun hats will be encouraged to wear them.
- Children will be able to bring their own, named sun-screen to school and will be encouraged to apply it before playtimes. School will stock sunscreen of SPF30 for children who forget or cannot afford their own.
- Drinking water is available to every child at all times; children are also able to bring their own drinks to school.
- Parents will receive reminders about sun protection for their children when they are likely to have more lengthy exposure than usual, for example on sports days, residential visits or on school trips.
- Staff will include sun awareness as part of any risk assessment carried out for school excursions. This will include an awareness of extra caution necessary around reflective surfaces, for example sand, water or cement. Burning can occur from reflective light.
- Consultation will take place with health experts, e.g. the school nurse, relating to good practice and up-to-date recommendations for sun protection.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents will be provided with information about potential damage caused by sun and heat, and the measures that can be taken to avoid such damage. Information will include the advice to:

- Provide children with sun-screen of at least SPF 30
- Provide children with a sun hat
- Provide children with cotton clothing, preferable loose, long sleeves.
- Provide water bottles for use to avoid dehydration.

MONITORING

Governors on the Resources sub-committee and/or JCC will liase with the Headteacher on a regular basis. Review of the Sun Awareness Policy will be undertaken by the JCC annually in the summer term and they will monitor any incidents of sunburn experienced in school.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Headteacher	Responsibility with Governing Body for policy, content and implementation. Liaison with governors, teachers and parents. Responsible for ensuring that teaching and midday supervisory staff are given training and support.
Governing Body	Responsible with Headteacher for policy and content and ensuring implementation of policy. Support for training and resources.
All Staff	Responsible for teaching sun awareness to children and encouraging them to use all forms of sun protection. Staff should also protect themselves when on playground duty and children in outdoor areas by wearing sunscreen and a sun hat and by staying in the shade whenever possible. Be aware that the sun is at its hottest at lunchtime. Sunburn does not only happen on a hot sunny day.

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school's policy review schedule.

Name	Position	Date