



Marazion School

Sun Protection Policy

**Reviewed by Whole School Staff Team; Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher
and Link Governor for Early Years Foundation Stage: March 2023**

Approved by Full Governors' Board: May 2023

Rational

Too much exposure to ultraviolet light (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer.

There is enormous potential for schools to help prevent skin cancer in future generations. Schools are central to protecting children's skin this is because:

- Children are at school five out of seven days a week at times when UV rays are high.
- Most damage due to sun exposure occurs during the school years.
- Schools can play a significant role in changing behaviours through role modelling and education.
- Students and teachers are at risk of sunburn within 10-15 minutes of being exposed to strong sunlight.
- Students spend an average of 1.5 hours outside per school day, more if involved in sports and outdoor activities.
- Skin cancer is largely preventable through behaviour modification and sun protection during early years.

Adopt sun protection strategies

Encourage students and staff to wear protective clothing during summer term

- School Clothing is made of close weave fabric and includes shirts with collars and longer sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts. Non-school uniform must not incorporate vests or sleeveless tops under any circumstances.

- Hats: Children are encouraged to have access to their own **named** sunhat in school during the spring and summer months. Ideally a wide-brimmed hat that covers the face, neck and ears.

Sunscreen

Covering up and seeking shade are the most important sun protection measures.

In addition, sunscreen can provide protection to exposed skin. However, sunscreen is not used to increase the amount of time spent in the sun.

Pupils are encouraged to apply sunscreen before school starts – SPF – At least 30 and UVA protection - 4 stars or above. UVA has a higher relevance to the protection and prevention of long-term effects. Children are encouraged to bring in sun cream for application at lunchtime and school trips.

All Staff members and volunteers are responsible where possible, for ensuring every pupil is sufficiently protected from the sun, by applying sunscreen; and ensuring minimal exposure to the sun at peak times

Parental Consent

- Parents are informed that staff members will apply sunscreen to their child as and when is necessary. This includes opportunities in the school grounds **and** on trips and visits. Parents must inform the school if they do not want a staff member to apply sunscreen.
- Parents are asked to provide a **named** bottle/tube of sunscreen and a sunhat for their child to leave in school.
- If their child is allergic to specific sunscreen, parents **must** inform the school in writing, and take the necessary precautions to ensure alternative provisions are in place in hot/sunny conditions.
- In any case whereby a parent **does not** wish a member of staff to apply sunscreen to their child, a declaration note **must** be signed by the parent to confirm this. However, if staff feel that a pupil is at risk of being affected by the sun, additional protection **will be** applied accordingly.

Shade

- The school makes use of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds particularly in areas where students congregate. The children are encouraged to use the Roundhouse for shade on hot, sunny days.
- In consultation with the education department, shade provision are considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.
- Children are encouraged to make use of available shaded areas when outside.

- Support recommendations to seek shade during breaks and dinner hour.
- Provide permanent or temporary shady structures within school grounds.

Involve staff, students and parents in the development and implementation of the policy

Role modelling

- Staff are encouraged to act as role-models by;
 - Wearing protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside.
 - Apply UVA 4★ or above, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen.
 - Seeking shade whenever possible.
- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of these sun protection measures when attending and participating in outdoor activities.
- Skin cancer education and resources are shared and planned into the curriculum as part of our Sea and Summer Safety Day.
- Parents are encouraged to support the school by acting as role models and providing protection for their children.
- We are positive in our approach. Sun protection strategies are fun, involve everyone, and provide choices.

Reviewing and evaluating the policy

- Review current health education guidelines annually.
- Conduct small surveys in school, e.g. attitudes and behaviours towards sunshine, level of knowledge of sun protection strategies, number of teachers/students sunbathing /using shaded areas during lunchtime.
- Incorporate into curriculum.

Review date of Sun Protection policy: March 2024

To be reviewed by Governors and Staff: March 2024