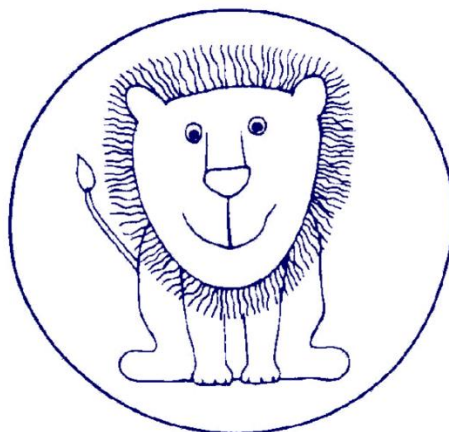


Linslade Lower School

Sun Protection Policy



Governor Approval: June 2024

Review Cycle: Triennial

Policy review chronology:

June 2024	New policy	Approved
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SUN PROTECTION POLICY RATIONALE

Whilst we recognise that some sun is good for us, over-exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (UVR) is an important safeguarding issue for schools. During the warmer months of the year, children are exposed to UVR from the sun, often when penetration is strongest (between 11am and 3pm). Without adequate protection, a child's delicate skin can easily burn, causing cumulative and irreparable damage. This can significantly increase their risk of developing skin cancer in later life. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the UK with rates of the disease rising faster than any other cancer. Around 90% of skin cancers are caused by over-exposure to UVR, so it is almost entirely preventable. Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to a person's lifetime risk of developing skin cancer, highlighting the importance of schools and parents working together to increase knowledge and influence behaviours, ensuring children are protected against UVR and learn how to enjoy the sun safely.

This policy outlines our commitment to:

PROTECTION: Providing an environment that enables children and staff to stay safe in the sun.

EDUCATION: Learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour.

COLLABORATION: Working with parents, the management structure and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety.

CLOTHING & SUN HATS | RATIONALE & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENT

Clothing is one of the most effective barriers between our skin and the sun and should always be considered the first line of defence against UV exposure. Ideally clothing should cover as much skin as possible. Shoulders should always be covered as they can easily burn.

Sun hats should be provided by parents. We have spare hats for hot days for the children to use. Extra care should be taken to protect the neck, ears and cheeks with sunscreen, as these areas can easily burn

OUR POLICY ON CLOTHING AND SUN HATS

We actively remind parents to ensure children are equipped with an appropriate sun hat for use as required throughout the school day.

We make available additional/spare sun hats for all outdoor activities in the event a parent is unable to provide one, or if a child has lost or forgotten their own.

We make available appropriate uniform sun hats for parents to purchase. We ensure children wear their sun hat outdoors when UV levels reach 3 or above.

We use Sun Safe strategies to encourage children to cover up like 'No hat, play in the shade or indoors'.

We ensure pupils wear school and PE uniforms that keep shoulders covered. Sunglasses are optional.

SUNSCREEN RATIONALE & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS

Sunscreen should be applied to areas of exposed skin that are not covered by clothing to protect it from Ultraviolet Radiation. Without adequate protection, a child's delicate skin can easily burn, causing cumulative and irreparable damage. This can significantly increase their risk of developing skin cancer in later life.

It is recommended that all sunscreen provided by both parents and schools should be:

- Labelled 'Broad-Spectrum' to provide protection against both UVA and UVB.
- A minimum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30 to provide a high level of protection against UVB.
- Ideally labelled with a UVA star rating with a minimum of 4 stars to ensure a high level of protection against UVA.
- Applied generously to exposed skin 20 minutes before going outdoors when UV levels reach 3 or above.
- ALL sunscreens should be reapplied at least every 2 hours and more often if sweating/towelling.
- Once-a-day sunscreens are not recommended as the level of protection decreases over time and all sunscreens should be regularly re-applied to maintain the required level of protection.
- Sunscreen should be stored in a cool, dry, accessible place.
- Check expiry dates as sunscreen becomes less effective over time. If an expiration date is not displayed, look for an open jar symbol which will have a number next to it (i.e. 9M or 12M) - that's the number of months you can safely use the sunscreen after opening

OUR POLICY ON SUNSCREEN

We actively remind parents to ensure children are equipped with an appropriately protective sunscreen for use as required throughout the school day.

We ensure pupils apply sunscreen when UV levels reach 3 or above before extended periods of outdoor activities such as lunch breaks, PE, outdoor lessons, school trips.

A practical approach towards the application of sunscreen is necessary, with assistance provided only where necessary to younger or less able pupils, unless instructed otherwise by the parent/carer.

OUR POLICY ON SHADE

We currently provide shaded areas outdoors where children can congregate for outdoor play and activities. We conduct shade assessments to consider future needs and are committed to improving shade solutions where necessary. We encourage children to play in the shade as much as possible when UV levels reach 3 or above, particularly between peak UV hours (11am-3pm). We monitor and limit time children

spend outdoors when UV levels are high, particularly during peak UV hours between 11am and 3pm.

OUR POLICY ON MONITORING UV

We are committed to monitoring the daily UV Index during warmer months to ensure appropriate sun safety measures are implemented when necessary. A child each day is selected to be our UV monitor and we display the daily UV level to engage the children and reinforce the importance of sun safety on a daily basis during warmer months

OUR POLICY ON STAFF AND ROLE MODELLING

We ensure all staff role model good sun safety behaviours such as applying sunscreen and wearing a sun hat when UV levels reach 3 or above. We are committed to ensuring all staff are actively involved in the implementation of this policy and that they consider the UV forecast and sun protection/ control measures when planning outdoor play or activities.

OUR POLICY ON SUN SAFETY EDUCATION

We are committed to educating all pupils annually about safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, including how to reduce the risk of skin cancer using the comprehensive, curriculum linked lesson plans, activities and resources provided by the Sun Safe Schools national accreditation programme.

OUR POLICY ON INFORMING THE PARENT COMMUNITY

We communicate our policy and actively remind parents of the required support through a range of channels e.g. our website, newsletters, text messages, social media and staff meetings. We provide parents / carers with sun safety and skin cancer awareness information to promote support and raise awareness of the prevention and early detection of skin cancer across our wider school community.

OUR POLICY ON HYDRATION

We are committed to ensuring children are kept hydrated with drinks, particularly water, available and encouraged regularly throughout the day, especially during warmer weather and physical activity. Children are reminded to drink in school and are given drink breaks on hot days. They must bring in a water bottle each day. Cups of water are provided if children forget. They have access to water fountains and water is served at lunch time.

REVIEWING OUR SUN SAFETY POLICY

Our school will regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of this policy and will update the policy on a triannual basis in-line with renewing our Sun Safe Schools annual accreditation.