

Sun Safety Policy



***‘Learning for life,
building a firm foundation’***

Reviewed: July 2026

Headteacher: Lisa Harrison

All Saints School is committed to the health and safety of the children within our care. We recognise the risks associated with overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation and are committed to promoting sun safety to reduce the risk of sunburn, heat exhaustion, and long-term skin damage, including skin cancer. This policy outlines how we aim to protect children during school hours and promote lifelong sun-safe habits. Our aim in setting this guidance is to protect children when playing in the sun at school and to build an awareness of safe behaviour in the sun, establishing good habits for the future. All children will be involved in discussions, appropriate for their age and understanding at the start of the summer about sun protection and risks.

Legal and Regulatory Context

Schools in England have a legal and regulatory responsibility to protect pupils from harm, which includes managing the risks associated with sun exposure. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Education Act 2002, schools must ensure a safe environment for children and staff, including taking reasonable steps to prevent sunburn and heat-related illnesses. Guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education encourages schools to develop sun safety policies, which may include promoting the use of sunscreen, hats, and protective clothing, encouraging students to seek shade during peak sunlight hours, and providing education about the risks of UV exposure.

Attendance

Our school follows the local authority guidance regarding attendance. Unless the school is closed, any absence due to the weather is an unauthorised absence and will be recorded as such.

Roles and Responsibilities

School Leadership: Ensure the policy is implemented and reviewed annually. Provide training and guidance to staff.

Staff: Promote sun safety in lessons and supervise pupils to ensure they follow sun safety guidance.

Parents/Guardians: Provide children with appropriate sun protection items such as hats, sunscreen, sunglasses and water bottles.

Pupils: Follow sun safety guidance and take responsibility for applying sunscreen and wearing protective clothing when required.

The Importance of Sun Safety

Sun safety is especially important for children because their skin is more delicate and vulnerable to damage from ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Overexposure to the sun in childhood significantly increases the risk of developing skin cancer, including melanoma, later in life. Children often spend more time outdoors during peak UV hours, and they may not recognise the signs of sunburn or overheating. Developing good sun safety habits early—such as wearing protective clothing, using sunscreen, and seeking shade—helps instil lifelong behaviours that reduce the risk of serious health issues. Moreover, protecting children from sunburn not only prevents immediate discomfort and potential heat-related illness but also supports their long-term health and well-being.

Specific Measures:

Clothing: Pupils are encouraged to wear hats during outdoor activities and PE. Parents should provide their child with a sun hat or legionnaires style cap from April onwards and ensure their child brings a water bottle to school every day.

Sunscreen: Parents are advised to apply long-lasting, high-factor sunscreen (SPF 30+) before school. Pupils may bring their own named sunscreen and apply it independently in accordance with the appropriate guidance: for example, some brands recommend application 30 minutes before sun exposure and reapplication at least every two hours when swimming or sweating. Pupils are responsible for the sunscreen and must not share it with other children.

Shade: Outdoor activities, including breaks and PE, will make use of shaded areas and specific facilities (gazebos and other canopies) where possible. The school will ensure shaded areas are accessible and maintained. If it is too hot to be outside then playtimes, P.E. lessons and any other planned outdoor learning will take place indoors.

Hand-held fans: Children may bring small hand-held fans to school. However, teachers are not responsible for them and the staff will not recharge them. Children must not give their personal property to other children and the school will not be responsible for any breakages or damage to handheld fans.

Hydration: Pupils will be reminded to bring water bottles and stay hydrated during warm weather. The school will provide opportunities for pupils to refill their water bottles regularly and remind pupils to drink frequently.

Timing of Outdoor Activities: Where possible, outdoor activities will be scheduled outside peak UV hours (11 am–3 pm).

Educating Young People

Sun safety will be incorporated into the PSHE curriculum and science lessons to raise awareness of the effects of sun exposure and promote healthy habits.

PSHE resources can be found here:

[Sunscreen and sun safety - NHS](#)

[Tips for staying safe in the sun - CBeebies](#)

<https://www.alderhey.nhs.uk/sun-safety-keeping-children-safe-in-hot-weather/>

At appropriate times during the year children will be reminded about 'How to be Sun Safe'. Children will be encouraged to use the shaded areas of the school during playtimes.

Application of Sun Cream

In hot weather, parents should apply sun cream to their child before they come to school (see above). Parents can support school by re-emphasising sun awareness and the risks of overexposure and the importance of sun cream application as one way of protecting skin. Teachers are not obliged to apply sun cream, and it is not practical for staff to apply cream to large numbers of pupils repeatedly.

Communication

The school will communicate sun safety guidance to parents via newsletters, the school website, throughout the year. Staff will receive regular reminders and updates during staff briefings. Pupils will receive regular reminders about sun safety.