



## Grappenhall Heys Community Primary School

### Sun Protection Policy 2019

The aim of this policy is to protect children and staff from skin damage caused by the effects of ultra violet radiation from the sun.

The main elements of this policy are:

**Protection:** providing an environment that enables pupils and staff to stay safe in the sun.

**Education:** learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour.

**Collaboration:** working with Parents/carers, Governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.

#### Short term practical solutions

Avoidance is the most effective way of reducing exposure to the sun and preventing sunburn.

#### Shade

Where possible sunshades or umbrellas should be provided particularly where pupils congregate outdoors. Re- schedule outdoor activities during the summer term so that they take place before 11am or after 3pm. During the summer term introduce a system for warning staff and pupils on high burning days. Encourage the use of hats outdoors and make them compulsory on sports days or other events when pupils will be outside for extended periods. Make sure that staff also wear hats outdoors to set an example.

#### Clothing

Encourage clothing that covers the body. The cover factor is the most important aspect. Shirts must have sleeves the longer the better and collars to protect the neck. Shorts should be longer to protect the top of the legs. Loose fitting clothes are cooler. Cancer Research UK's SunSmart campaign advises people to look for t – shirt material with a close weave and in darker colours as they will block out the most UV rays. Hats- wide brimmed hats or legionnaire – style caps are the best. They provide adequate cover for the face, ears and back of the neck.

#### Water

Ensure that there is plenty drinking water. Children need extra fluids in hot weather to prevent dehydration.

## Sunscreen

The use of sunscreen in schools is only one of a range of sun safety measures to prevent sunburn during the summer months but should be encouraged when other preventative measures such as shade or protective clothing are unavailable or impractical or as additional protection. Sunscreen products are not classed as medicine. However the implications for sunscreen use in school are analogous to that of medicines. Teachers and other support staff are not legally obliged to administer sunscreen and the support and cooperation of parents is essential. Schools have an important role in Safeguarding children. Protection from the sun is one of these safety issues. Sunscreen should not be used to prolong the amount of time spent in the sun but as a form of protection when other measures are unavailable or impracticable. At school this would include:

- Outdoor breaks, particularly lunch breaks
- PE or other outdoor lessons
- Sports days

### **How should sunscreen be applied?**

Sunscreen applied before school provides insufficient protection for the whole day. Therefore schools need to consider the use of sunscreen by pupils most at risk of sunburn during school hours. Some Children may be prone to skin allergies/skin sensitivities therefore children should be encouraged to bring their own sunscreen into school labelled accordingly for their self-administration. Self-application is recommended however some children may require assistance. **Written permission for someone else to apply sunscreen must be gained from parents and carers.** Teachers who do help to apply sunscreen should do so only to the face, neck and arms and in accordance with relevant school policies.

Policy written by: Kelly Jackson

Adopted by Governors: Spring term 2018

To be Reviewed: Spring term 2021