

## **The Merton Primary School**

### **Sun Safety Policy**

At The Merton Primary School we acknowledge the importance of sun protection and want staff and children to enjoy the sun safely.

The main elements of this policy are:

- 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.
- Partnership – to work with parents/carers, governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.

#### **Protection**

- Encourage children to wear clothes that provide good sun protection, in particular the use of hats.
- Encourage parents to apply a good quality, high factor all day sun cream before school. Staff cannot apply sunscreen to children in school. In some exceptional circumstances, children may bring their own named sunscreen to school to be applied.
- Encourage children to bring in their own, labelled water bottle.
- Encourage everyone to drink water and ensure there are regular opportunities to do so.
- Encourage children to use shady areas during breaks, lunchtimes, sports and trips. Sunbathing is definitely discouraged. Staff will be vigilant at spotting children who may need to move into the shade on sunny days.
- Work towards increasing the provision of adequate shade for everybody.
- Be vigilant to the temperature of classrooms; ensure that windows are opened and/or blinds drawn to keep rooms as cool as possible.
- Ensure that PE lessons or any outdoor learning lessons are carefully planned to avoid over exposure to sun, unnecessary exertion and dehydration. Staff will be particularly vigilant with regard to children with asthma, breathing difficulties or other relevant health conditions.
- Sunscreen use will be encouraged on school trips. On sunny days, staff on residential trips will remind all pupils of the need to apply sunscreen each morning.

#### **Education**

- Educate children, throughout the curriculum, about why and how they should protect their skin.

#### **Partnership**

- Regularly remind children, staff and parents about sun safety through newsletters and activities for children. Encourage parents to act as good role models by practising sun safety.
- Staff should act as positive role models and set a good example by seeking out the shade whenever possible and wearing suitable clothing, hat and sunscreen.

#### **Other considerations**

In rare cases, extreme heat can cause heatstroke. Symptoms to look out for are:

- Cramps in arms, legs or stomach.
- Feelings of mild confusion or weakness.

If anyone has these symptoms, they should rest, keep cool and drink water. If you suspect a member of staff or child has become seriously ill, call an ambulance.

While waiting for the ambulance:

- If possible, move the person to somewhere cooler.
- Cool them down as quickly as possible by loosening their clothes, sprinkling them with cold water and increasing ventilation.
- Give them water to drink.

## **Monitoring**

We will make sure our Sun Safety Policy is working by regularly monitoring our curriculum, shade provision and the sun safety behaviour of our children and staff.

Sept 2025