

Hessle Mount School

Sun Awareness Policy

It is our aim to act in the best interests of all children and comes from an awareness of the need to protect all our children from the adverse effects of the sun and other Health and Safety issues. We encourage parents to help make this policy successful by taking time to talk to their children about the importance of sun protection at home.

The five key “SunSmart” skin cancer prevention messages are:

Spend time in the shade between 11 and 3

Make sure you never burn

Aim to cover up with a t-shirt, hat and sunglasses

Remember children burn more easily

Then use factor 15+ sunscreen

Education :- Teaching the children about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour

- We talk to the children about playing in the shade during outdoor play on sunny days.
- We sing songs about being sun aware.
- We explain the importance of drinking plenty of water on hot days.
- Early Years children will draw pictures to re-enforce the sun protection message.
- Parents and guardians are sent a letter explaining what we do about sun protection and how they can help.

Protection :- Providing an environment that enables children and staff to stay safe in the sun

Shade

- We have willow trees on the “big field” which the children are encouraged to play under during the hottest periods of the day.
- We are currently waiting for a sun awning to be fitted over the Pre-school outdoor play area
- Seating areas are placed within shaded areas to encourage the children to spend time out of the sun

Clothing

- All children **must** wear the “Hessle Mount” legionnaire style sun hat when playing outside in the sun – available to buy in school
- To protect arms we advise long sleeves to be worn, in addition long socks would protect legs better than ankle socks

Sunscreens

There are a number of problems and health and safety issues inherent in children bringing sunscreens to school for self application, including allergies and misuse by other children. However, we recognise the importance of sunscreen as a part of our sun protection policy.

- **We strongly advise a very high factor, waterproof or water resistant sunscreen is applied before you bring your child to school. We are advised that this should then last until you meet your child after school and reapplication should not normally be necessary during the school day.**
- If parents do send their child with sunscreen it must be clearly named, be factor 15+ and be handed to the child’s teacher at the start of the school day. Staff members are NOT permitted to apply sunscreen to the children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3. The children will be able to apply sunscreen before lunch, they will be supervised applying and washing hands afterwards. It is the parent’s responsibility to show their child how to correctly apply sunscreen.
- Pre-school parents will be asked to fill in a consent form for application of sunscreen to their child by Pre-school staff. Please note the Pre-school staff members hold no responsibility for a child burning if the wrong sun factor is sent. However, again, we advise that a very high factor, waterproof or water resistant sun cream is applied before the child comes to school.
- Strictly no sunscreen is to be shared. If a child does not have their own sunscreen the child will be expected to stay in the shade throughout the lunch time play.

Other measures

The children play outside for up to half an hour during lunchtime play. We will, if necessary shorten this time on very hot days and the children will have a story in the shade or return to the hall to “cool down” and have an opportunity to have a drink of water.

Water

Parents are encouraged to send a named bottle of water with their child during the summer.

A copy of this policy will be sent to parents to enable them to support the school.

This policy was formed in June 2009

To be reviewed yearly 2010 - 2011