



Sun Safety and Hot Weather Policy

Coordinator: Headteacher

Date: June 2026

Review Date: May 2027

The Legal and Regulatory Position

There are no legally enforceable minimum or maximum temperatures for workplaces, including schools. The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 requires employers to ensure working conditions are reasonable and do not present a risk to health.

The World Health Organisation recommends a maximum of 24°C for comfortable working, but this is advisory. Historic thresholds from the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (now withdrawn) are still often used as informal reference points:

- 18°C – normal activity (eg classrooms)
- 21°C – low activity (eg sickbay)
- 15°C – high activity (eg gym).

Under health and safety law, school leaders must monitor workplace conditions and take proportionate, cost-effective action to reduce risk when temperatures are excessive.

1. Purpose

Bowmansgreen is committed to protecting pupils, staff and visitors from the harmful effects of excessive sun exposure and high temperatures.

This policy promotes safe practices to reduce the risk of sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion and long-term skin damage.

Children are particularly vulnerable to sunburn, which can occur even on cloudy days during the summer months.

Excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation during childhood increases the risk of skin damage and skin cancer later in life.

Promoting good sun-safety habits forms part of the school's duty of care and commitment to pupils' health and wellbeing.

2. Aims

The school aims to:

- Protect pupils and staff from harmful UV exposure.
- Promote healthy sun-safety habits.
- Reduce the risk of dehydration and heat-related illness.
- Support pupils in developing personal responsibility for their health and wellbeing.
- Ensure appropriate arrangements are in place during periods of hot weather and heatwaves.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

During periods of exceptionally hot weather or official heatwave alerts, the school will take additional measures to maintain a safe environment.

School leaders

School leaders will:

- review the Sun Safety and Hot Weather Policy annually
- monitor weather forecasts and prepare mitigation measures in advance
- provide ice lollies or cold snacks to help with cooling (when possible)
- risk assess staff / pupils with heat-sensitive conditions (eg respiratory or heart conditions; pregnancy)
- adjust duties, move to cooler rooms or agree temporary home working where necessary.
- adjust the school day where feasible e.g. sending children home if the classrooms and other learning areas are too hot

Classroom and site management staff

Classroom and site management staff will:

- keep blinds closed before classrooms become excessively warm.
- open windows early in the morning and later in the afternoon to maximise ventilation.
- create cross-ventilation by opening windows and doors on opposite sides of the building where safe to do so.
- use fans to increase air circulation, ensuring they are safely positioned and supervised where necessary.
- move desks out of direct sunlight; relocate lessons to cooler areas
- moderate physical activity and reschedule PE to cooler times
- encourage shade use during breaks.
- ensure continuous access to drinking water
- monitor pupils who may be more vulnerable to dehydration.
- encourage good sun-safety practices.
- supervise pupils' self-application of sunscreen where appropriate.
- monitor pupils for signs of heat-related illness.
- reduce hot meals and consider cooler menu options
- set remote learning activities if the school is closed

Parents and Carers

Parents are responsible for:

- applying sunscreen before school where appropriate.
- providing a suitable hat (named)
- sending a refillable, named water bottle into school daily
- ensuring their child understands not to share sunscreen products (on trips).

Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- drink water regularly.
- wear hats when requested.
- apply their own sunscreen where appropriate.
- follow staff guidance regarding sun safety and hot weather.

4. Sunshine and Shade

Where possible, pupils will be encouraged to:

- use shaded areas during break and lunchtime
- participate in activities under cover or in shaded locations during periods of strong sunshine.
- avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight during the hottest parts of the day – there will be a film played in the school hall during lunchtime for pupils to stay inside, EYFS pupils will stay in their classroom.

Clothing and Hats

Parents are encouraged to provide:

- a suitable sun hat - a peaked, well-fitted cap, for outdoor activities.
- lightweight, loose-fitting clothing suitable for warm weather.
(During a heatwave, normal school trousers/ skirts, or sweatshirts can be replaced by PE shorts and any school t-shirt or school Summer dresses).

Pupils will be encouraged to wear hats during outdoor learning, PE lessons, playtimes, sports days and educational visits when appropriate.

5. Sunscreen

Parental Responsibility

Parents are encouraged to apply a broad-spectrum SPF 50+ sunscreen to their child before school each day during periods of sunny weather.

Research indicates that a thorough morning application of SPF 50+ sunscreen can provide effective protection for a typical UK school day when combined with hats, shade and appropriate clothing.

Parents should ensure that:

- sunscreen is suitable for their child's skin.
- their child is not allergic to the product being used.
- sunscreen is not sent to school other than on residential trips, when parents have shown children how to apply sunscreen. This supports the development of personal responsibility and self-care skills. Pupils must not share sunscreen products with others. All sunscreen on residential trips must be named, in a sealed clear plastic bag.

NB: we have children in school who have nut and allergies – please ensure that the sunscreen you apply to your child does not contain nut oil and are eucalyptus-free.

Additional Guidance

While dermatologists generally recommend reapplying sunscreen every two hours when outdoors, this is not practical within a school setting, and we recommend an all-day broad-spectrum screen is applied at home before school.

Additional sun protection measures such as hats, shade, hydration and suitable clothing remain important throughout the day.

During heatwaves, sports days, swimming activities, educational visits or prolonged outdoor events, sunscreen reapplication becomes particularly important and additional arrangements may be made where appropriate.

6. Recognising Heat-Related Illness

Staff will remain vigilant for signs of heat exhaustion, including:

- Dizziness
- Headache
- Excessive sweating
- Nausea
- Fatigue

Any pupil displaying symptoms of heat-related illness will be moved to a cool area, provided with water and appropriate first aid, and parents will be contacted where necessary.

June 2026



SUN SAFETY & HOT WEATHER POLICY

Keeping our school community safe, healthy and happy

Information
for Parents
and Carers



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18°C

NORMAL ACTIVITY
(e.g. classrooms)



21°C

LOW ACTIVITY
(e.g. sickbay)



15°C

HIGH ACTIVITY
(e.g. gym)



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1 PURPOSE

Bowmansgreen is committed to protecting pupils, staff and visitors from the harmful effects of excessive sun exposure and high temperatures.

- This policy promotes safe practices to reduce the risk of sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion and long-term skin damage.
- Children are particularly vulnerable to sunburn, which can occur even on cloudy days during the summer months.
- Excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation during childhood increases the risk of skin damage and skin cancer later in life.
- Promoting good sun-safety habits forms part of the school's duty of care and commitment to pupils' health and wellbeing.



2 AIMS

The school aims to:

- Protect pupils and staff from harmful UV exposure.
- Promote healthy sun-safety habits.
- Reduce the risk of dehydration and heat-related illness.
- Support pupils in developing personal responsibility for their health and wellbeing.
- Ensure appropriate arrangements are in place during periods of hot weather and heatwaves.



3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During periods of exceptionally hot weather or official heatwave alerts, the school will take additional measures to maintain a safe environment.



SCHOOL LEADERS

School leaders will:

- review the Sun Safety and Hot Weather Policy annually
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- provide ice lollies or cold snacks to help with cooling (when possible)
- risk assess staff/pupils with heat-sensitive conditions (e.g. respiratory or heart conditions; pregnancy)
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CLASSROOM AND SITE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Classroom and site management staff will:

- keep blinds closed before classrooms become excessively warm.
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- monitor pupils who may be more vulnerable to dehydration.
- encourage good sun-safety practices.
- supervise pupils' self-application of sunscreen where appropriate.
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PARENTS AND CARERS

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PUPILS

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- wear hats when requested.
- apply their own sunscreen where appropriate.
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4 SUNSHINE AND SHADE

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5 SUNSCREEN

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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6 RECOGNISING HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

Staff will remain vigilant for signs of heat exhaustion, including:



Dizziness



Headache



Excessive sweating



Nausea



Fatigue



Any pupil displaying symptoms of heat-related illness will be moved to a cool area, provided with water and appropriate first aid, and parents will be contacted where necessary.



Stay Safe



Stay Cool



Stay Hydrated



Stay Protected

Together, we care

