

MERE SCHOOL

Sun Safety Policy

Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK and the number of cases is rising at an alarming rate. The majority of these cases can be prevented. Most skin cancers are caused by UV radiation from the sun. If we protect ourselves from the sun then we can reduce our risk. This is particularly important for children and young people whose skin is more delicate and easily damaged.

Sun burn in childhood can double your risk of skin cancer. You will not see the damage immediately because skin cancer can take years to develop, but children who are exposed to the sun now are storing up problems for the future.

The Cancer Research UK SunSmart prevention messages are:

Stay in the shade 11-3

Make sure you never burn

Always cover up – wear a t-shirt, hat and wraparound sunglasses

Remember children burn more easily

Then use factor 15+ sunscreen.

Our policy is developed in consultation with whole school community. It is based on:

- **PROTECTION:** providing an environment that enables pupils and staff to stay safe in the sun.
 - we regularly review our school grounds to ensure there is plenty of shade.
 - alternative arrangements for playtimes are made on extremely hot days.
 - timetabling will be altered according to the weather (sports day early in the morning etc).
 - school sun hats are available throughout the year.
 - we are not allowed to administer sun cream but encourage parents to do so.
- **EDUCATION:** learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour.
 - teachers regularly talk to pupils about sun safety as part of our PSHE curriculum.
- **COLLABORATION:** working with parents, governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.
 - regular letters to parents to remind them about sun safety.

Autumn Term 2007

Review: Autumn Term 2010 (or earlier if necessary)