



The R A Butler Schools Sun Protection Policy 2024

Background

Evidence suggests that sunburn in early childhood is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Children are most at risk during the first fifteen years of their life but skin cancer is largely preventable. It is therefore essential that children and families are helped to develop sun protection behaviour patterns that will help them stay safe during this vulnerable period and throughout the rest of their lives.

At the R A Butler Schools we acknowledge the importance of sun protection and the need for children, staff and parents to enjoy the sun safely. Our policy draws on the advice provided by Cancer Research.

Shade

R A Butler has a site that is filled with large, mature trees that provide extensive shade. Additionally there are shaded seating areas.

- ✓ All children will be advised to sit and play in the shade on sunny days, especially between the hours of eleven and three.
- ✓ Portable gazebos will be used for any extended sporting activity such as sports day and district sports.
- ✓ Children will only be able to work outside (read etc.) if they are under a shaded area.
- ✓ The amount of time spent outside will be restricted on very sunny days.

Clothing

- ✓ All children should bring a sun hat to wear in school (ideally a legionnaire style with neck protection). Please ensure that this is named. When the conditions are deemed to be high risk, children will be asked to wear their hats unless parents have expressly written to say that they do not want their children to wear their hats on sunny days.

Sunscreen

- ✓ Parents are asked to apply long lasting sun cream (SPF 25 or above) to their children before they come to school in the morning. Making this a daily family routine will ensure that it always happens on school days and non-school days, children are properly covered and parents know exactly what their children are using.
- ✓ Parents are asked to use a sun cream that is not nut-based to reduce possible allergic reactions in other children.
- ✓ Extra protection will be required for children during extended sporting activities, on day visits or on residential visits. For these special occasions, parents are asked to apply sun cream at the beginning of the day and to send cream in, in a named tube so that children can apply the cream under supervision.
- ✓ Parents may wish to send cream in to Late Play, in a named tube so that children can apply the cream after school under supervision.

Water

- ✓ Children will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day and during after school sport activities.
- ✓ Please ensure that your child has a named bottle of fresh water in school each day.

Review date

2027