



## Hot Weather and Sun Safety Policy

Headteachers, Governors and the LA have a responsibility to ensure that staff and pupils are able to work and learn in a safe environment.

Currently there is no statutory upper limit specified in UK Health and Safety Law for a maximum permissible temperature in the workplace, however, there is a legal requirement contained within the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 which applies to employees:

“During working hours, the temperature in all workplaces inside buildings shall be reasonable”. Thermometers shall be provided to enable temperatures inside the school to be measured. Further to this, every enclosed workplace must be ventilated by a sufficient quantity of air so that stale air is replaced at a reasonable rate.

Although not specifically covered by the regulations, a general duty of care is owed to pupils and so similar standards will apply to those for employees.

Protection from exposure to the sun is also an issue the school must consider for both pupils and staff. As an employer the school has an obligation to protect staff from exposure and this is extended to pupils in our care.

The aim of this Hot Weather and Sun Safety Policy is to protect children and staff from skin damage caused by the effects of ultraviolet radiation from the sun and to ensure that staff and pupils are able to work and learn in a safe environment.

The main elements of this policy are:

- Protection: providing an environment that enables pupils and staff to stay safe in the sun
- Partnership: working with parents/carers, governors, the LA school nurse and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.
- Planning: ensuring the school is prepared for hot weather and staff and pupils are kept safe

Eversley believes in sun safety to ensure that children and staff are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultra-violet rays in sunlight.

As part of the Hot Weather and Sun Safety policy, Eversley will:

- Encourage children to wear clothes that provide good sun protection
- Hold outdoor activities in areas of shade whenever possible and encourage children to use shady areas during playtime, lunchtime, sports and trips
- Encourage staff and parents to act as good role models by practising sun safety – eg: wearing sun cream and hats

**Date: October 2022**

**Next Review date: October 2024**

- Regularly remind children, staff and parents about sun safety through newsletters, parents meetings and activities for pupils
- Ensure the Hot Weather and Sun Safety policy is working. We will regularly monitor our curriculum, assess shade provision, and review the sun safety behaviour of children and staff (use of hats, shade, etc.)
- Make provisions for the school buildings to be prepared for periods of hot weather and have workable measures in place before a heatwave is forecast.

The NHS operates a system called “Heat-Health Watch” between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> September and is based on Met office forecasts. There are four trigger levels which will action a response from the Department of Health and other bodies. The “Heat-Health Watch” can be monitored on the Met Office website [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)

The Met Office will forecast severe heatwaves based on London threshold day and night-time temperatures (32 degrees Centigrade in the day and 18 degrees Centigrade at night).

The four trigger levels for response are:

- 1) **Level 1 Awareness** – the minimum state of vigilance, both before and during this period, preparedness must be enhanced and maintained by the measures set out in the heatwave plan.
- 2) **Level 2 Alert** – this is triggered as soon as the Met Office forecasts threshold temperatures for at least three days ahead in any one region, or that there is an 80% chance of temperatures being high enough on at least two consecutive days to have significant effects on health. At this level a broadcast will be made on television and radio weather reports.
- 3) **Level 3 Heatwave** – this is triggered as soon as the Met Office confirms that threshold temperatures have been reached in any one region or more.
- 4) **Level 4 Emergency** – this is reached when a heatwave is so severe and/or prolonged that its effects extend outside health and social care, such as power or water shortages and/or where the integrity of health and social care systems is threatened.

The Office & Finance Manager is responsible for monitoring the Heat-Health Watch between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> September annually and ensuring the elements of the Heatwave Plan are implemented when and if appropriate.

#### **Heatwave Plan:**

- All outdoor activities will be suspended during the hottest part of the day (11am – 3pm).
- Strenuous outdoor activity will be limited.
- Relaxation of the school dress code, allowing more loose fitting, lightweight garments to be worn.
- Ensure both staff and pupils have access to fresh drinking water at all times.
- Monitoring of members of staff or pupils who are unusually susceptible to the effects of heat (e.g.: those with medical conditions, pregnant women, menopausal women)

- Checking the temperature of metal and plastic playground equipment before children play on it.
- Welfare Assistants to be clear on the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and know how to treat suspected cases
- All windows to be shaded by blinds or reflective film and easily opened to allow fresh air to circulate
- Risk assessments to be carried out to determine whether electric fans will be beneficial (e.g.: for badly ventilated or windowless rooms)
- Class teachers to make judgements as to the temperature of classrooms and make internal arrangements to teach in cooler areas where possible.
- PE lessons will be carefully planned to avoid sun exposure, unnecessary exertion and dehydration. In extreme weather outdoor PE lessons will be held inside.

**London Borough of Enfield Policy on use of suncreams:**

1. Members of staff are not authorised to apply suncream to pupils
2. Parents/Carers are advised to ensure pupils have at least SPF 15 sun cream applied before coming to school in warm weather. This, together with appropriate clothing and hats, provision of shade and drinking water is sufficient to discharge the duty of care for playtime/lunchtime
3. Additional considerations may be needed on exceptionally hot days or for occasions of prolonged exposure such as sports events or trips/visits. Each occasion will be subject to risk assessment
4. Parents are advised that pupils on residential visits will be expected to administer their own suncream.