



SUN PROTECTION POLICY

2025-2026

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Our School Vision and Values

Thames View Junior School is at the heart of the community.
It is a place where everybody has a voice and is valued.
Positive relationships between staff, pupils and parents ensure that our pupils flourish
in an environment of mutual respect and tolerance.
We are an ambitious school with high expectations from both staff and pupils.

Our pupils will leave us, ready to positively embrace life in modern Britain and
through our broad and balanced curriculum we endeavor to prepare them for the
next stage of their academic journey.

At Thames View Junior School, our safe and nurturing environment enables pupils to
flourish and attain their potential both academically and socially.

Striving for Excellence

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Introduction:

It is important that parents, staff and pupils work together to ensure that we can all enjoy the sun safely over the summer months. The sun's rays are particularly strong over the summer and they can damage children's skin. Dehydration and over-exposure to sunlight can cause huge health worries which we would like to avoid. Your child's health and wellbeing are very important to us and Sun Safety is something that we take seriously at Birkbeck.

As a school we regularly talk to children about the importance of being safe in the sun during lessons and assemblies as appropriate.

Your support is very important. You can help by:

- Talking to your child about the importance of sun protection at home.
- Sending your child into school with a named sunhat. Children who do not have a sun hat on very sunny days will be asked to stay in the shade.
- Applying a high factor sun cream (at least SPF 15) to your child before sending them to school. We recommend you use an 'all day' variety as staff are unable to reapply sun cream to children during the school day. However, if your child needs to reapply and is able to do so themselves they can bring in clearly labelled sun cream to reapply themselves at the beginning of lunchtime.
- Ensuring your child brings a large water bottle to school and encourage them to drink plenty of water – we will remind them too!

Why is sun protection important for children and young people?

The number of cases of malignant melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer is rising at an alarming rate. The good news is that the majority of these cases could be prevented. Most skin cancers are caused by too much ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. If we protect ourselves from overexposure to 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.

What about vitamin D?

We all need some sun to make enough vitamin D. Enjoying the sun safely, while taking care not to burn, should help most people get a good balance without raising the risk of skin cancer. For more information on vitamin D, visit the SunSmart website:

Sun Safety Information - www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/causes-of-cancer/sun-uv-and-cancer

Sun Protection Policy

Thames View Junior School believes in promoting Sun Safety to ensure that children and staff are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays in sunlight.

We follow the five key SunSmart messages:

- Stay in the shade as much as possible (especially 11am–3pm)
- Make sure you do your best to not burn
- Always cover up, where possible – wear a t-shirt, hat, and wraparound sunglasses
- Remember that children burn more easily
- Use factor 15+ sunscreen with 5 stars on the back

In school we will:

- Educate children through the curriculum about how to stay safe in the sun, including the causes of skin cancer and how to protect their skin.
- Encourage children to wear clothes that provide good sun protection and use sunscreens where appropriate.
- Remind children to seek shade, especially during breaks, lunchtimes, sports, and trips.
- Encourage staff and parents to act as role models by practicing sun safety.
- Regularly remind children, staff, and parents about sun safety through newsletters, posters, and pupil activities.
- Remind children to drink plenty of water during the day, particularly in hot weather.
- Monitor and assess shade provision and review the sun safety behaviours of students and staff.

Expectations for Parents and Carers

- Provide sunscreen (SPF 15+ and effective against UVA and UVB) for school use, clearly labelled with the child's name, and replenished as needed. (Please note: aerosols are not permitted in school.)
- Apply sunscreen at home before the school day begins (including neck, shoulders, nose, ears, cheeks, and tops of feet if uncovered).
- Teach their child how to apply their own sunscreen. (Please see our Intimate Care Policy for exceptional cases.)
- Encourage their child to wear longer sleeved shirts and longer shorts when outdoors.
- Provide a hat, preferably with a wide brim that shades the face and neck.
- Ensure their child has a water bottle in school.

In School Practice

- Sunscreen products will be stored in a location designated by the class teacher.
- Teachers and support staff on outdoor duties or in charge of outings will remind children to cover up and use sunscreen.
- Parents will be reminded of this policy regularly, especially at the start of the summer term.

Legal and Health Guidance

This policy should be read alongside local authority health and safety guidance. It reflects responsibilities under the Health & Safety at Work Act (1974).

Key principles:

- Protection – creating a safe environment with shade and protective clothing.
- Education – increasing knowledge and influencing safe behaviour.
- Collaboration – working with parents, governors, and the wider community to promote a healthy school.

Treating Sunburn

If a child suffers sunburn, staff will treat it as part of first aid, acting in the best interests of the child and securing their welfare in line with Department for Education guidance.

Parent Letter

A parent information letter on sun safety will accompany this policy to outline expectations for sunscreen, hats, and protective clothing.

Parent Letter – Sun Safety at School

Dear Parents & Carers,

Sun Safety at School

Thames View Junior School is concerned about protecting staff and pupils from sunburn and skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays in sunlight. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the UK. As sunburn and almost all skin cancers are caused by the sun, it is possible to prevent this happening. The school believes that by encouraging sun safe behaviour and teaching children about the risks of sunlight, we can prevent sunburn and help reduce the risk of skin cancer in later life.

We will be encouraging children to avoid sunburn and overexposure to the sun by:

- Seeking the shade, particularly during the middle of the day
- Wearing suitable hats
- Wearing clothing that protects the skin, particularly for outdoor activities and school visits
- Using a high factor sunscreen (SPF 15+) that is effective against UVA and UVB

Teachers and support staff on outdoor duties or leading school outings will remind children to cover up in the sun and use sunscreen.

You can help by encouraging your child to:

- Bring and wear a hat at school, especially on sports days and school visits
- Wear longer sleeved shirts and longer shorts when outdoors

The school will remind parents of this policy throughout the year, particularly around the start of the summer term, sports days and educational visits.

Sunscreens provide added protection and are especially useful when other measures are not available. Dermatologists recommend that a sunscreen with sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or above, effective against both UVA and UVB, provides adequate protection in the UK.

We encourage parents to:

- Apply sunscreen before pupils come to school.
- If you wish, provide sunscreen for reapplication in school. The sunscreen must be:
 - Clearly marked with your child's name
 - Replenished by the parent when necessary
- Please note: the child must be able to apply their own sunscreen.
- Sunscreen products will be stored in a location designated by the class teacher.

Please note that the school does not permit the use of aerosol sprays.

Thank you for your support in helping us to keep all pupils safe and healthy in the summer months.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. Hall

***Assistant Headteacher
Thames View Junior School***