



Sun Wise Policy

Date Approved 9/03/16

Date of Renewal 03/19

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

Introduction

This policy is adopted so that children attending The Pochin School are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful UV radiation of the sun. The policy is to be implemented particularly during the Summer Term.

Rationale

The incidence of skin cancer in the UK has increased considerably over recent years and continues to rise. It is the most common form of cancer in the country and is almost always caused by the sun. Skin cancer is therefore preventable and by protecting the skin of young children and teenagers it is possible to reduce the risk of sunburn and cumulative damage caused by the sun. There is evidence that sunburn in childhood increases the risk of skin cancer later in life. Some people are more at risk of skin cancer than others. People with fair or freckled skin who burn easily are most at risk and should take great care when out in the sun. People with brown or black skin do not normally need to protect themselves with sunscreen in the UK although they should avoid excessive sun exposure because of the risk of over-heating and dehydration.

Protection against the sun is necessary when UV radiation levels are at their highest.

In the UK this is:

- Between April and September.
- Between 11 am and 3 pm.
- On cloudless days even when the temperature is not high or there is a cooling wind (although cloud reduces UV levels, it is still possible to burn under light cloud).
- When UV is also reflected, adding to the overall intensity that reaches the skin; light surfaces like concrete, water, sand and snow reflect UV.

Aims

- To raise awareness among children of the dangers of excessive sun exposure through appropriate curriculum areas, particularly Science, PSHCE and PE.
- To encourage children to bring to school and wear protective clothing eg sun hats, tops that cover shoulders, necks and arms.
- To take appropriate precautions and risk assessments for all outdoor activities such as Sports Day, after-school sports and clubs, school outings and trips.
- To provide access to fresh water supplies and provision of advice on regular consumption of liquid to prevent dehydration.

Use of Sunscreen in School

Our policy is to permit and encourage the use of sunscreens provided by parents/carers in school, when our risk assessment indicates it is required, and will endeavour to ensure that they are used correctly through -

- Reminding parents/carers annually through the school's newsletter that sunscreen provided should be of SPF15 or above depending on the individual child's needs and that they are responsible for giving their child clear directions on how to apply sunscreen safely and effectively.
- Teaching and support staff reinforcing directions on how to apply sunscreen safely and effectively.
- Whenever possible teachers supervising the application of sun screen. Self-application of sunscreen by pupils is the preferred option. Sometimes it may be necessary for teachers or support staff to help or support children to apply the sunscreen, particularly in the Foundation and Key Stage 1.

There is no legal requirement for staff to do this and they will do so using their professional judgment. Teachers and support staff will be familiar with the aims and guidance in this policy and ensure that they are correctly implemented.

Staff will follow protective procedures and act as role models.

The school will endeavour to convey a positive message so that children can enjoy outdoor safety by being "sunwise".