

## **Toll Bar Primary School**

### **Sun Awareness Policy**

#### **Introduction**

Young children need special care when they are in the sun. They love playing outdoors, but they are not aware of how the sun can damage their skin. So as adults it is important that we take precautions for them.

Getting sunburnt as a child leads to greater risk of skin cancer in later life, but the good news is that sun damage can be avoided. Experts believe that four out of every five cases of skin cancer are preventable.

#### **Aims**

- To protect children while they are in our care at our school.
- To help work in partnership with parents to protect children at other times.
- To help children understand the importance of keeping themselves safe in the sun.

#### **How aims are to be achieved**

1. Staff to educate themselves about the risks of sunburn
2. Staff to provide protective care over the summer months between April and September
3. Staff to take particular care when children are outside during the hottest part of the day between 11 am and 3 pm. During this period children should:
  - Wear sun hats
  - Wear clothing covering shoulders and arms
  - Only be outside for limited periods, when it is sunny
  - Wear appropriate sunscreen – permission to be given by parents
4. Provide shady areas in the playground
5. Postponing events in periods of excessive sun or high temperatures
6. Encouraging pupils and staff attending residential visits to bring sunscreen and reminding them to apply it at suitable intervals.  
Ensuring that the pupils and staff are appropriately clothed (the back is the main area susceptible to sunburn and melanoma) during the visit.

7. Pupils may be brought indoors during longer breaks in periods of excessive sun or high temperatures.
8. Staff deployment will take account of sun safety.
9. Another issue relating to summer conditions are the problems surrounding excessive heat and the issue of dehydration. Pupils and staff have access to drinking water through the water coolers in school. Pupils are allowed a bottle of water in the classroom as evidence that pupils who have regular access to drinks throughout the day can have increased levels of concentration.
10. Parents will be informed about the school policy and be encouraged to keep their children safe in the sun through:
  - A newsletter at the beginning of term
  - Occasional meetings arranged for parents with health professionals if required
  - Informal information from staff
  - Appropriate use of sun, permission to apply sunscreen at school
  - Appropriate eye protection with a brimmed hat and ideally sunglasses with UV filters.
11. Advising parents of the need for pupils to wear appropriate clothing that gives protection from the sun during the summer months. This may include a hat which offers protection to the neck and head, long sleeved loose clothing and long trousers. Staff should also consider the need to wear suitable clothing for outside supervision.
12. Encouraging parents to apply waterproof sunscreen which gives complete protection (of the highest factor available) to all exposed areas of the skin prior to sending pupils to school and providing their child with sunscreen which they can apply in school. Staff should also apply their own sunscreen as appropriate.
13. Parents should inform school if there is a history of skin cancer in the family or if they feel their child is particularly prone to burning.
14. At the beginning of the summer term staff will explain to children about the need to keep children safe in the sun and how to do this through assemblies.

### **Resources**

- Books/posters/stories/displays
- Health promotion department
- School Nurse
- Fact sheets and leaflets

### **Evaluation**

Regular review with consultation of all relevant parties.