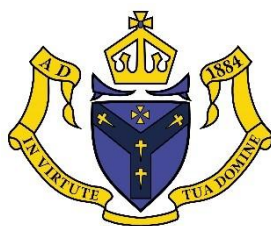


Sissinghurst Church of England VA Primary



Our School Vision

At Sissinghurst Church of England Primary School in partnership with the Church, parents, and wider community, we offer an inclusive learning environment to nurture potential that enables all to be successful. Vibrant, rich curricular opportunities equip everyone with knowledge and skills to question, discuss and challenge.

Everyone's talents are discovered and celebrated. We foster spiritual growth and reflection to find wonder and joy in the World together. As light bearers, our shared responsibility is to encourage each other to be compassionate and kind so we can all shine with integrity, humility and wisdom. We find courage to act when we know there is darkness, illuminating the World with God's light and hope.

We are dedicated to providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Our Christian values of:

Kindness Forgiveness Courage Service

Policy Title:	Sun Safety and Extreme Heat Policy
Date:	June 2026
Review Date:	June 2029

1. Purpose

Sissinghurst CE Primary School is committed to protecting pupils, staff and visitors from the harmful effects of excessive sun exposure and high temperatures. This policy promotes safe practices to reduce the risk of sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion and long-term skin damage. Children are particularly vulnerable to sunburn, which can occur even on cloudy days during the summer months. Excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation during childhood increases the risk of skin damage and skin cancer later in life. Promoting good sun-safety habits forms part of the school's duty of care and commitment to pupils' health and wellbeing.

2. Aims

The school aims to:

- Protect pupils and staff from harmful UV exposure.
- Promote healthy sun-safety habits.
- Reduce the risk of dehydration and heat-related illness.
- Support pupils in developing personal responsibility for their health and wellbeing.

- Ensure appropriate arrangements are in place during periods of hot weather and heatwaves.

3. Sun Safety Measures

Shade

Where possible, pupils will be encouraged to:

- Use shaded areas during break and lunchtime.
- Participate in activities under cover or in shaded locations during periods of strong sunshine.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight during the hottest parts of the day.

Clothing and Hats

Parents are encouraged to provide:

- A suitable sun hat for outdoor activities.
- Lightweight, loose-fitting clothing suitable for warm weather. (During a heatwave, normal uniform can be replaced by lightweight shorts and plain t-shirt or school summer dress).

Pupils will be encouraged to wear hats during outdoor learning, PE lessons, playtimes, sports days and educational visits when appropriate.

Hydration

The school will:

- Ensure all pupils have access to drinking water throughout the day.
- Encourage pupils to drink water regularly.
- Permit pupils to carry water bottles where appropriate.

4. Sunscreen

Parental Responsibility

Parents are encouraged to apply a broad-spectrum SPF 50+ sunscreen to their child before school each day during periods of sunny weather.

Research indicates that a thorough morning application of SPF 50+ sunscreen can provide effective protection for a typical UK school day when combined with hats, shade and appropriate clothing.

Parents should ensure that:

- Sunscreen is suitable for their child's skin.
- Their child is not allergic to the product being used.
- Sunscreen is clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Sunscreen is sent to school in a sealed plastic bag to prevent leakage and damage to books or other belongings.

Reapplication at School

During periods of particularly hot, sunny weather, or when UV levels are higher, children may bring sunscreen into school.

For children in Early Years and Key Stage 1:

- Staff will supervise pupils applying their own sunscreen.
- Staff will not physically apply sunscreen to pupils except where specific arrangements have been agreed.
- Sunscreen may be applied before lunchtime or at another suitable time during the day.

For children in Key Stage 2:

- Pupils will be encouraged to apply their own sunscreen independently.
- This supports the development of personal responsibility and self-care skills.

Pupils should not share sunscreen products with others.

Additional Guidance

While dermatologists generally recommend reapplying sunscreen every two hours when outdoors, this is not always practical within a school setting. Additional sun protection measures such as hats, shade, hydration and suitable clothing remain important throughout the day. During heatwaves, sports days, educational visits or prolonged outdoor events, sunscreen reapplication becomes particularly important and additional arrangements may be made where appropriate.

5. Hot Weather and Heatwave Procedures

During periods of exceptionally hot weather or official heatwave alerts, the school will take additional measures to maintain a safe environment.

The school will:

Reduce Indoor Temperatures

- Keep blinds closed before classrooms become excessively warm.
- Open windows early in the morning and later in the afternoon to maximise ventilation.
- Create cross-ventilation by opening windows and doors on opposite sides of the building where safe to do so.
- Use fans to increase air circulation, ensuring they are safely positioned and supervised where necessary.

Adapt Outdoor Activities

The school may:

- Move activities to shaded areas.
- Reduce the duration of outdoor activities.
- Adjust PE lessons and sports activities.
- Modify timetables where necessary to protect pupils and staff.
- Have lunchtimes inside the building.

Promote Hydration

- Encourage regular water consumption throughout the day.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to refill water bottles.
- Monitor pupils who may be more vulnerable to dehydration.

6. Recognising Heat-Related Illness

Staff will remain vigilant for signs of heat exhaustion, including:

- Dizziness
- Headache
- Excessive sweating
- Nausea
- Fatigue

Any pupil displaying symptoms of heat-related illness will be moved to a cool area, provided with water and appropriate first aid, and parents will be contacted where necessary.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Parents and Carers

Parents are responsible for:

- Applying sunscreen before school where appropriate.
- Providing a suitable hat. (named)
- Providing clearly labelled sunscreen if they wish their child to reapply it during the school day.
- Ensuring their child understands not to share sunscreen products.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Encouraging good sun-safety practices.
- Supervising pupils' self-application of sunscreen where appropriate.
- Promoting hydration.
- Monitoring pupils for signs of heat-related illness.
- Implementing heatwave procedures when required.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Drink water regularly.
- Wear hats when requested.
- Apply their own sunscreen where appropriate.
- Follow staff guidance regarding sun safety and hot weather.

This policy will be reviewed regularly and updated in line with public health guidance and the needs of the school community.