

# Lowton West Primary School



## Hot Weather Safety Policy

**Policy reviewed by N. Gould**

**Date policy reviewed: June 2024**

**Ratified by Governing Body:**

Dr. G Merrett (Chair of Governors)

Mrs J. Westhead (Headteacher)

# Lowton West Primary School

## Hot Weather Safety Policy

### *Aiming High Together*



#### School Vision

To inspire, achieve and succeed, we will aim high and build dreams and futures together.

#### Mission Statement

**Providing the highest quality education, care and support for the whole school community.**

Our mission statement is based on RESPECT:

**R** = Recognising the needs of the individual child

**E** = Ensuring a unique and engaging curriculum

**S** = Supporting each other to learn and achieve

**P** = Passionate about providing the highest quality education

**E** = Encouraging creativity, self – expression and imagination

**C** = Creating confident, resilient, life – long learners

**T** = The voice of everybody is heard

All the above statements help us to understand how we can all make a positive contribution to the school and the wider community.

#### **We will do this through our core values:**

- Respect
- Resilience
- Kindness
- Confidence

We also, at Lowton West Primary School, strive to develop and uphold British Values.

The five British values that the Government has identified for schools to focus on are: -

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Developing personal and social responsibility
- Respect for British Institutions

There are more details on how our school demonstrates and develops these British Values in our British Values Policy and on our website.

## **Hot Weather Safety Policy**

Schools have a duty of care to staff and children at all times: this duty of care includes protection against hot weather, inside and outside classrooms. Exceptionally hot and sunny weather usually only occurs on a relatively few school days in the year. It is however important that staff and pupils at Lowton West Primary are aware of the risks presented by exposure to the harmful effects of the sun's rays. To ensure all the health and safety of all children and staff during hot weather, a range of issues will be considered at school and appropriate action will be taken. It is important for all staff to look out for signs of heat stress, heat exhaustion and heatstroke during hot weather and follow the guidance and procedures provided. This policy has been written by following the government guidance, 'Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals', updated March 2024, the relevant NHS advice linked to sun safety and consideration to Health and Safety guidance provided by the local authority and NICE guidelines (PH32 and NG34).

### Access to water

Children will be encouraged to drink regularly. Children are encouraged to bring water bottles to school every day and have access to the water fountains situated in KS1 and KS2. Children are also able to refill water bottles as necessary. During longer periods outside such as Sports Day and sporting events, children will be given mini rest breaks to have a drink of water.

In the event of water fountains not being accessible, staff will also ensure jugs of drinking water are available in classrooms throughout the school day to refill water bottles and drinking cups.

### Access to shade

Children are encouraged to bring a baseball hat or sun hat to school in hot weather to wear outdoors. Reminders will be given to children and parents about this during the Summer Term. During very high temperatures, pupils may be asked to remain indoors during play periods (either for the full duration of a playtime or for part of a playtime). If children are kept inside, this will be supervised in the same way that 'wet playtimes' are supervised. Shaded areas in the outdoor environment will be provided wherever possible, such as the use of gazebos or trees on the school field and the canopy in the school garden.

### Sun Cream

Parents are encouraged to apply a high factor sun cream (35 plus) to their child's face, neck, arms and legs before the start of the school day. Sunscreen is not to be applied to pupils by members of staff. Older pupils are able to re-apply sunscreen for the afternoon session if needed. Parents are able to attend school during the lunch period to re-apply sun cream when necessary. Staff will supervise the younger children if they need to re-apply sunscreen for the afternoon session.

If children are not wearing a sunscreen, they will be asked to stay indoors in order to prevent sunburn. A staff member will contact a parent or carer to inform them that their child has been kept in and to ask them to ensure that their child has a sunscreen applied in future during the hot weather.

### Outdoor events and activities

Careful thought will always be given to outdoor events and PE taking place in hot weather. If necessary, events will be cancelled or postponed, although with

appropriate preparations, such as the use of the school gazebos, we would usually be able to go ahead. Staff in charge of such activities should monitor weather forecasts and advise those concerned of any changes as soon as possible.

Teachers will be mindful of the hot temperatures when planning outdoor PE lessons. For example, if children have been outside during the whole of lunchtime in hot weather conditions, it would not be appropriate for them to go out immediately after lunch for a long period of time to do outdoor PE. Teachers may use the following options:

- Change the afternoon PE times to a later time in order to give the children a break from the sun after the lunchtime period
- Plan a PE activity that includes the children sitting in the shade for short periods
- Lead a PE session in the morning when it is cooler
- Ensure that children come in for a break from the sun
- Shorten the length of a PE lesson
- Cancel a PE lesson

#### Ventilation and room temperature

Classrooms will be ventilated by opening windows and doors to provide cross ventilation and the escape of heat. To reduce the build-up of heat indoors, all blinds and curtains will be closed.

#### Education

Children can become susceptible to a mild form of heat stress, (headaches, feeling lethargic, sick or faint) which can be brought on by playing or being out in the sun for long periods. Such exposure to the sun can be accumulative from previous days, i.e. children playing in the sun throughout the previous weekend. It is important that children learn about and understand the symptoms of heat stress and know how to prevent this.

Sun and hot weather safety and awareness are incorporated into the PSHC&E curriculum for all ages. Sun protection is actively promoted to pupils in a variety of ways for example: assemblies, talks, workshops and visitors. Parents and children will be informed of the importance of sun protection and parents will be asked to support school by providing appropriate sun protection for their children and by promoting and encouraging sensible behaviour around sun safety.

#### Further Information

[Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Updated March 2024

Further 'Sun Safety for children' NHS guidance is available from the following link:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/safety-in-the-sun/>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/sun-safety.html>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/heatwave-how-to-cope-in-hot-weather/>

Further information may be obtained from the 'SunSmart' campaign website run by Cancer Research UK:

[www.sunsmart.org.uk](http://www.sunsmart.org.uk)