OAKDENE
PRIMARY ACADEMY

GROWING FOR EXCELLENCE

SUN SAFE POLICY

2026-2030

Version Number: 01
Ratified by Local Governing Body: June 2026
Next Review Date: Mav 2030
Academy Link: L Young

A GREAT PLACE **TO BE A PART OF**

MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST

Sun Protection Policy
Oakdene Primary Academy

At Oakdene Primary Academy, we recognise the importance of sun protection and are committed to ensuring that staff and pupils can enjoy outdoor activities safely. We acknowledge that excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation increases the risk of skin damage and skin cancer later in life.
Children are particularly vulnerable, and as they spend considerable time outdoors during the school day, it is essential that we take a proactive approach to sun safety.

Rationale

- Children are in school during peak UV times (11am–3pm)
- Exposure during the first 15 years significantly increases long-term skin cancer risk
- Schools play a key role in developing long-term safe behaviours
- Outdoor learning, playtimes, PE, and events increase exposure

At Oakdene Primary Academy, we recognise that there is currently limited natural shade on site, and therefore additional precautions are necessary to safeguard pupils and staff.

Sun Protection Measures

1.Clothing

- Pupils and staff are encouraged to wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing that covers shoulders.
- School uniform supports sun safety through polo shirts and longer-style garments.
- PE kit requires t-shirts (no vest tops).

Pupils are encouraged to wear:

- Wide-brimmed hats or caps when outdoors
- Sunglasses may be worn where appropriate (UV protective).

2. Sunscreen

- Pupils and their parents/carers should apply broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30+ recommended) before school.

- Sunscreen should be reapplied at home, or pupils may bring their own clearly labelled sunscreen for self-application (staff will supervise but not apply).
- Sunscreen is an additional protective measure and **must not be used to extend time in the sun.**

3. Shade and Outdoor Environment

Due to limited fixed shade on the school site the school will:

- Actively adapt outdoor use during periods of high UV or heat
- Use temporary shade solutions where possible (e.g. gazebos, shelters for events)
- Identify and utilise any available shaded areas, even if limited

Pupils will be:

- Encouraged to use shaded areas whenever available
- Supported to understand the importance of moving out of direct sun

Planning adjustments:

- Outdoor activities will be risk assessed with UV exposure in mind
- Consideration given to altering locations or timings where shade is unavailable

4. Organisation of the School Day

During periods of strong sun or heat outdoor activities will be:

- Scheduled before 11am or after 3pm where possible
- Shortened or adapted if necessary

Breaktimes and lunchtimes may be:

- Staggered or adapted
- Moved indoors during extreme conditions

Sports days or events may be:

- Rescheduled or adjusted to reduce exposure

5. Hydration and Heat Safety

- Pupils will have regular access to drinking water throughout the day
- Water bottles should be brought daily and refilled as needed

Staff will:

- Encourage frequent drinking
- Monitor pupils for signs of heat-related illness

Role of Staff

Staff will act as role models by:

- Wearing hats and appropriate clothing outdoors
- Using sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- Seeking shade wherever possible

Encouraging and reminding pupils to:

- Wear hats
- Drink water
- Move out of direct sunlight

Staff will also:

- Adapt lessons and activities in response to weather conditions
- Maintain a positive and proactive approach to sun safety
- Support pupils in understanding how to keep themselves safe

Working with Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are asked to support the school by:

- Applying sunscreen before school

Providing:

- A sun hat/cap
- A refillable water bottle
- Optional labelled sunscreen for self-application
- Modelling good sun safety behaviours

Extreme Weather (Heatwave Response)

In line with current guidance for schools:

During periods of extreme heat, the school will:

- Reduce or avoid outdoor activities during peak heat
- Increase indoor learning opportunities
- Ensure continuous access to water
- Monitor pupil wellbeing closely
- Follow local authority and public health guidance

Curriculum and Awareness

Sun safety will be promoted through:

- PSHE
- Science
- Assemblies and reminders during warmer months

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to updated guidance.