



King's College School
The British School of Madrid

La Moraleja

Sun Protection Policy

Rationale

Skin cancer is the second most common form of cancer in Britain and is almost always caused by the sun. Skin cancer has doubled over the past fifteen years and continues to rise with more than 50,000 new cases and 2000 deaths every year. It is known that prolonged over-exposure to the sun and episodes of sunburn under the age of 15 are major risk factors for skin cancer in later life. Most are curable and treatment is improving all the time, but prevention is the best policy. In Spain, the risk of over-exposure to the sun and its harmful effects are even greater than in the UK.

Aims

- To provide a safe environment within the school.
- To raise the awareness of sun safety with staff, pupils and parents.
- To minimise harmful exposure to the sun.

Objectives

- To ensure that staff, pupils and parents are fully informed of the dangers of over-exposure to the sun.
- To ensure that parents are aware of their responsibilities.
- To prevent the possibility of sunburn for pupils at school and on school trips.
- To educate staff, pupils and parents about sun safety.

Responsibilities

Parental

To ensure they have taken steps to protect their child from sun burn by:

- Applying a high factor sunscreen before their child comes to school in the morning.
- Ensuring their child has loose cotton clothing to keep them cool.
- Providing hats to wear in the school playground.
- Providing UV protective sunglasses and sun hats as necessary.
- To educate their child about the dangers of overexposure to the sun and how to keep safe.
- To provide adequate drinks for their child and positively encourage their child to drink water throughout the day.



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The Headteacher

- To support and approve the policy
- To liaise between interested parties – school staff, School Nurse, parents and pupils.
- To ensure good communication of the policy to all concerned.
- To ensure every aspect of the policy is maintained.
- Ensure that teaching assistants know the sun safety policy.

School Nurse

To provide support to staff in relation to sun safety policy:

- To ensure that staff, pupils and parents are educated about the dangers of over exposure to the sun.
- To provide advice, guidance and support to parents where special circumstances prevail.
- To encourage the drinking of plenty of water throughout the school day.
- To provide sunscreen with all First Aid bags on school trips (both day trips and residential). The trip first-Aider will be responsible for distributing sunscreen to all the children, who are then responsible for applying it to their faces, ears, arms and any other exposed areas themselves.

The Class Teacher

- To educate the pupils about the dangers of over exposure to the sun through the curriculum.
- To encourage the wearing of hats during outside activities and breaks.
- To encourage, promote and facilitate the consumption of water throughout the school day.
- To encourage the pupils to remain in the shade during the hottest part of the day.

Note

The School Nurse and teaching staff cannot take responsibility for the application of sunscreen during the school day, unless special circumstances prevail. It can be requested by doctor's letter and will be dealt with, as would a medication.

References

“Cancer Research UK, Sunsmart Campaign; Sun Protection Policy Guidelines for Primary Schools”



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| Created and Reviewed by : Emma Donnellan, October 2016 | Policy Category: Health and Safety |
| Approved by : Elena Benito | Next Review: October 2017 |
| Approved by KGB December 2016 | Next Review: |