



# Beech Green Primary School

*Respect Achieve Belong*

## Sun Protection Policy 2026 – 2027

Status and review cycle: Statutory. Annual  
Responsible group: Full Governing Body, Local Authority  
Review date: March 2027

Publication date: May 2026  
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## 1. Policy Statement

Beech Green Primary School is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all pupils and staff by promoting effective sun protection practices. While exposure to sunlight has benefits, over-exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) presents a significant and preventable risk.

This policy reflects our school values:

- **Respect** – promoting responsibility for personal health and the wellbeing of others
- **Achieve** – supporting pupils to learn and thrive in a safe, healthy environment
- **Belong** – ensuring all members of the school community feel safe, included and supported

## 2. Rationale

Exposure to UVR, particularly between 11:00am and 3:00pm, can cause immediate and long-term skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. As the majority of skin cancers are preventable, schools play a vital role in reducing risk through education and protective practices.

Establishing effective sun safety habits during childhood supports lifelong health and wellbeing. This policy ensures a consistent approach across the school and promotes partnership with parents and carers.

## 3. Aims

The school aims to:

- Minimise the risk of harmful sun exposure for pupils and staff
- Promote consistent sun safety practices
- Educate pupils to make informed choices about sun exposure
- Work in partnership with parents and the wider community
- Embed sun safety within the ethos of **Achieve, Respect, Belong**

## 4. Sun Protection Procedures

### 4.1 Clothing and Sun Hats

Appropriate clothing is the first line of defence against UVR.

- Pupils are expected to wear clothing that covers the shoulders, in line with school and PE uniform expectations
- Pupils should wear appropriate sun hats (broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style) when outdoors during periods of increased UV exposure
- Baseball caps are not recommended, although may be worn if no alternative is available

The school will:

- Communicate expectations to parents and carers
- Provide spare hats where necessary to ensure all pupils can participate safely
- Promote consistent expectations to support safe outdoor learning

## 4.2 Sunscreen

Sunscreen is an important supplementary form of protection.

- Pupils are expected to bring sunscreen (minimum SPF 30 with appropriate UVA protection) during warmer months
- Sunscreen should be applied before the school day and reapplied as necessary

Within school:

- **Pupils are expected to apply their own sunscreen independently** before outdoor activities when the UV Index reaches 3 or above
- Staff will supervise application to ensure appropriate use
- **Support with application will only be provided where a specific need has been identified and agreed with parents/carers** (e.g. age, medical need, or additional needs)
- Sunscreen may be provided by the school in exceptional circumstances

This approach supports independence and responsibility, reflecting the value of **Respect**.

## 4.3 Shade and Outdoor Provision

The school provides access to shaded areas to reduce direct sun exposure.

- Pupils are encouraged to use shaded areas, particularly during peak UV hours
- Outdoor activities are planned with consideration of UV levels
- The school will continue to review and develop shaded spaces

This ensures safe and inclusive access to outdoor learning (**Belong**).

## 4.4 Monitoring UV Levels

The school monitors the daily UV Index during warmer months.

- Additional protective measures are implemented when the UV Index reaches 3 or above
- Pupils are supported to develop awareness and understanding of sun safety

## 4.5 Staff Role Modelling

Staff are expected to model positive sun safety behaviours.

- Staff will demonstrate appropriate use of sun protection measures
- Sun safety will be considered when planning outdoor activities

## 4.6 Education

Sun safety education is an integral part of the school curriculum.

- **Pupils receive regular, planned sun safety lessons** which teach them about the risks of UV exposure and how to protect themselves effectively

- Learning includes understanding the UV Index, the importance of sunscreen, appropriate clothing, and safe behaviours in the sun
- Teaching is age-appropriate and may be delivered through PSHE, science, and wider curriculum opportunities
- Sun safety messages are reinforced throughout the year, particularly during the summer term .

#### 4.7 Partnership with Parents and Carers

The school works in partnership with parents and carers to ensure consistent practice.

- Expectations are communicated clearly through school channels
- Information is provided to support awareness of sun safety and skin cancer prevention

#### 4.8 Hydration

Hydration is actively promoted, particularly during warm weather.

- Pupils have regular access to drinking water throughout the day
- Drinking water is encouraged during outdoor activities and physical exercise

#### 5. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and reflects current guidance and best practice.