

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL

Sun Safety Policy 2023 - 2026

I am special in God's eyes

We will be a happy, welcoming school with Christ at the centre, where everyone is recognised as special

"Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name,
you are mine.

Because you are precious in my eyes,
because you are honoured and I love you."

Isaiah 43 : 2-5

St Joseph's strongly supports the principles of sun safety and ensuring that children and staff are protected from skin damage caused by excessive exposure to harmful ultra-violet rays in sunlight.

As part of our curriculum and care of children, we educate children on how to protect their skin from excessive sunlight and why it is important to do this and actively seek to minimise the risks of sun damage.

At school, we will:

- Minimise exposure to midday sun and extreme temperatures and UV levels
- Schedule outdoor activities at times other than the middle of the day when the sun's rays are most harmful
- Ensure pupils wear their hats and have access to their water bottles whilst outside
- Supervise a reapplication of any sunscreen brought into school before outdoor activities (helping children as needed)
- Encourage children and staff to wear suitable clothes in hot weather that provide good sun protection, and to use sunscreens where appropriate
- Enforce a 'no hat - no sun' rule when UV levels are high
- Hold outdoor activities in areas of shade whenever possible, and encourage children to use shady areas during breaks, lunch hours, sports activities and school trips
- Work towards increasing the provision of adequate shade for everybody on the school site
- Ensure that a Sun Safety Policy is in place and having an impact by monitoring our curriculum, assessing shade provision, reviewing current health education guidelines and monitoring the sun safety behaviour of pupils and staff, including the use of hats and shade.

Parents are requested to:

- Apply a high factor 'once a day' **sunscreen** to your child in the morning before school each day when UV levels are high
- Send in a named **sunhat** that can be left in school for daily use
- Send in a named **water bottle** each day (bottles can be refilled at school as needed)
- If your child requires sunscreen, send it in in a **named bottle in a plastic named bag** (to be given directly to class staff).

Sunscreen Application

Teachers and other adults are not encouraged to routinely apply sunscreen to children. Class staff will supervise children applying it for themselves, and will support children where needed.

Sunglasses

Sunglasses are not part of our school uniform. Sunglasses are easily lost or broken. Sunglasses may need to be worn in exceptional circumstances and this will be with agreement and arrangement with the school.

Exceptional Weather

During exceptional weather, children may be kept indoors or only allowed outdoors for very short periods of time.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier if required.

Date: June 2023

Review Date: June 2026