

Belle Vue Primary School Sun Awareness Policy

RRSA: Article 29 - Every child has the right to an education. Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Introduction

At Belle Vue Primary School we believe that too much sun can be harmful to health, and so we strongly advise parents to note the Health and Safety points contained within the Dudley Health Promoting Schools Guidance.

Rationale

Research shows that excessive exposure to the sun can cause skin cancer. There are 40,000 new cases of skin cancer in the UK each year and the British Association of Dermatology estimates that four out of five skin cancer deaths are preventable. Moderate exposure to summer sunshine is essential for our bodies to produce the required amount of vitamin D. For all these reasons, our school does all it can to discourage children over exposure to the sun and to educate them in sun safety, so that they grow up to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Aims and objectives

We aim to:

- help children know and understand that too much sun, and the harmful effects that it can have on their bodies;
- provide children with the knowledge and information necessary for them to make responsible choices in relation to sun awareness;

Organisation

We teach children about sun awareness as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme with advice and support from the Health Promoting Schools Service. We engage them in discussions about the reasons why people need to be aware of the dangers of excessive exposure to the sun. Staff lead all such discussions in a sensitive manner. The children are given safety strategies to prevent sunburn and we encourage them to make their own decisions about the dangers and to choose a healthy lifestyle.

The dangers of sun sometimes arise as an issue in science lessons. When such an issue arises, the class teacher deals with it in context, and answers the children's questions to the best of his/her ability, taking care to explain that too much sun is dangerous and should be avoided.

Sun Awareness Policy

Parents are reminded of the procedures we have in school to protect the health of the children. These include:

- Ensuring children have sun hats in school during the warm weather
- Providing children with sun cream to apply in school if they wish (this includes reminders to parents to apply sun lotion before the school day)
- Ensuring children have clearly named water bottles in school

Staff

Staff are aware of the issues relating to this aspect of Health and Safety and take precautions to prevent children being burned by the sun. They actively encourage children to wear hats, drink plenty of water and, if parents wish, to allow pupils to apply sun block before they go out to play. During hot spells staff encourage children to find space in shaded areas on the school grounds to protect from exposure to the sun.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the Headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. The Governors review this policy as part of their curriculum committee's monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's PSHE programme

Reviewed by SLT: September 2021