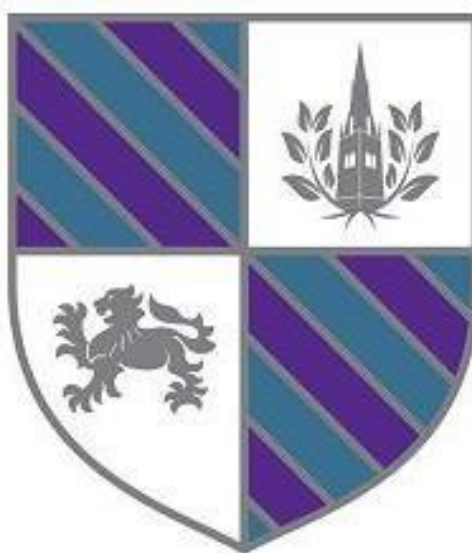


# MAGNUS CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

## Sun, safety and high temperatures policy



Signed by:

A Martin

Headteacher

Date: December 2024

M O'Connell

Chair of governors

Date: December 2024

Last updated: December 2024

**Developing people of good character who achieve excellence and make a positive contribution to their communities.**

Our mission is to ensure that:

- students develop the knowledge, skills and character to live happy, healthy and successful lives – all are included and work hard to fulfil their potential regardless of background or starting point – student choices are not limited by self-belief, opportunity or circumstance.
- This can be achieved at Magnus through world class learning, high expectations and through encouraging personal, moral and spiritual development within a Christian framework.

**Our Core Values...**

*All our work will be underpinned and driven by the following core values:*

- **Determination**

- Have the courage to work hard and keep going with a relentless drive to achieve excellence.

**“Run in such a way that you may win” 1 Corin 9 v 24**

- **Integrity**

- Have the strength of character to choose honesty and truth at all times and be accountable for our actions.

**“We are taking pains to do what is right not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man” 2 Corin 8 v21**

- **Ambition**

- Have the belief and drive to succeed, placing no limits on what can be achieved

**“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” Phillips 4 v 13**

- **Humility**

- Recognise and respect the value of everyone and celebrate success together.

**“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love”  
Ephesians 4v2**

- **Compassion**

- Comfort and support all those in need and offer grace to all in our community.

**“Be like minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble”  
1 Peter 3 v 8**

This policy has been written using the academy vision and values statement as our core guidance to ensure all that we do at Magnus is reflected through our vision for our students.

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**Statement of intent**

At Magnus Church of England Academy, we are committed to ensuring our school community is kept safe at all times. The school recognises the risks to health posed by overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The school also recognises that children are at greater risk of ill-health from heat than adults as they cannot control their body temperature as efficiently because they do not sweat as much.

This policy outlines the framework in which our school will identify, manage and minimise the risks of hot weather and UV rays to our staff and pupils. The procedures outlined in this policy will be adhered to by all staff members, pupils, parents and visitors whilst on the school premises or attending a school event.

## **1. Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) (2022) 'Looking after children and those in early years settings during heatwaves: for teachers and other educational professionals'
- KHSA (2023) 'Adverse Weather and Health Plan: Protecting health from weather related harm'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- First Aid Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring consent is sought from parents to ensure staff have permission to apply sunscreen to pupils.
- Ensuring staff have received appropriate training and guidance on the stipulations in this policy, and ensuring staff act in accordance with this policy.
- Determining if the school should be closed and pupils should be sent home due to hot temperatures.
- Ensuring classroom temperatures are maintained at an appropriate level.
- Ensuring that staff model good practice in terms of sun safety.
- Ensuring that staff understand the precautions for pupils in terms of sun safety, e.g. wearing sun-safe hats.
- Ensuring that the relevant staff sign up to receive Weather-Health alerts from the UKHSA and the Met Office.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy.
- Modelling good practice in terms of sun safety.
- Ensuring that pupils have the appropriate sun-safe clothing and sunscreen on.
- Encouraging pupils to stay appropriately hydrated.
- Ensuring sunscreen is only applied to pupils where consent has been provided and in line with this policy.
- Recognising and being alert to the signs of heat stress, heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

Parents are responsible for:

- Sending their children to school with the necessary sun safety precautions, e.g. sunscreen, hats and water bottles.
- Completing the [Parental Consent to Apply Sunscreen](#) form.
- Encouraging their children to practice sun-safe precautions.

### 3. Minimising risks

The school is committed to ensuring the welfare and wellbeing of pupils. To minimise the risk of ill health during high temperatures, the school will:

- Encourage staff and pupils to keep as much of their skin as possible covered up during the Summer months.
- Encourage staff and pupils to use sunscreen of at least sun protection factor (SPF) **15** with UVA protection on any part of the body that they cannot cover up.
- Use sunscreen in accordance with the product's instructions.
- Encourage staff and pupils to take their breaks in the shade, if possible, rather than staying out in the sun.
- Reschedule work/outdoor lessons to minimise UV exposure.
- Situate water points and rest areas in the shade.
- Encourage staff and pupils to eat normally drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- Encourage staff and pupils to check their skin regularly for any unusual moles or spots and refer themselves to a qualified medical practitioner where necessary.
- Encourage the removal of PPE during rest periods, to help facilitate heat loss.
- Ensure all staff members, pupils and visitors are aware of, and adhere to, this policy.
- Where pupils have suffered from a sun-related illness, e.g. sunstroke, a trained first aider will provide appropriate support in accordance with the school's First Aid Policy.

The following measures to protect staff and pupils indoors will be considered:

- Opening windows as early as possible in the morning before pupils arrive – where the outdoor air is warmer than the air indoors, windows will be closed whilst considering the need to maintain adequate ventilation and air quality.
- Minimising the use of electrical lighting and electrical equipment, e.g. computers, monitors and printers, including switching anything off that is not in use.
- Using teaching spaces with a cooler temperature that are less prone to overheating wherever possible and adjusting the layout of classrooms to avoid direct sunlight on people
- Using outdoor sun awnings where available, and closing indoor blinds or curtains without blocking window ventilation
- Using oscillating mechanical fans to increase air movement if temperatures are below 35°C
- Adjusting school start and finish times, and break times, e.g. extending the morning break and shortening lunchtime, to minimise time spent at school and outdoors in high temperatures.
- Encouraging pupils to eat normally and drink plenty of water

Where relevant to their role, staff members will be provided with training on the dangers of high temperatures, including how to recognise and respond to heat illness. All first aid training provided to staff members will cover heat illness.

#### **4. Clothing**

During the Summer months, when temperatures reach above **25°C**, everyone working at or attending the school will be encouraged to protect their face, neck and ears using a sun-safe hat with a wide brim. Baseball caps or visors are not considered sun-safe hats.

Pupils without sun-safe hats will only be permitted to play in an area protected from the sun, unless a sun-safe hat has been provided.

Everyone working at or attending the school during daylight hours will be required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of their skin as possible. This includes wearing:

- Light-coloured and loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered necklines.
- Longer style skirts, shorts or trousers.
- Tops that cover the shoulder area.

During hot weather, lightweight clothing will be required to reduce the risk of overheating.

Pupils will be advised not to wear their jumpers or blazers during hot weather.

Pupils not wearing sun-safe clothing will be required to play in an area protected from the sun, if spare clothing cannot be provided.

Staff will encourage pupils to wear UV protected sunglasses.

#### **5. Sunscreen**

Pupils will be asked to provide their own sunscreen and should apply it before going outside.

A reserve supply of sunscreen will be stored in the first aid room for pupils who forget theirs. Sunscreen will be stored in a cool, dry place and the expiry date will be monitored. Sunscreen will be self-administered.

Teachers and other staff members will not be encouraged, and will not be required, to apply sunscreen to pupils, due to the potential for allegations of abuse. Any allegations will be handled in line with the school's Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.

Where a teacher or other staff member agrees to apply sunscreen to pupils, such as to our youngest pupils or a pupil with SEND, another member of staff will witness the application and parental consent will be obtained beforehand.

Teachers and other staff members will only apply sunscreen to pupils' faces, necks and arms.

#### **6. PE and outdoor activities**

On days above **25°C**, PE lessons will only involve activities that are not overly strenuous.

Appropriate clothes, hats and sunscreen will be worn during PE in hot weather, and participants will remain suitably hydrated. Where appropriate, PE uniform rules will be relaxed to allow pupils to wear loose, light-coloured clothing.

All outdoor activities will be planned to take place in shaded areas as much as possible. Activities will be set up in the shade and moved throughout the day to stay in the shade.

On days above **28°C**, PE lessons and outdoor activities, will be held indoors to prevent any kind of illness resulting from physical activities in hot conditions. Strenuous games such as football and basketball will not be allowed during break times. The headteacher will decide if a school trip needs to be cancelled for safety reasons due to high temperatures, with regard paid to weather forecast, the age of pupils attending, and the extent of physical activity required.

## **7. Hot weather procedures**

Windows will be opened where possible to allow natural ventilation; where windows cannot be opened or it is unsafe to do so, alternative means of artificial ventilation will be available.

A sufficient number of thermometers will be available to ensure temperatures can be measured in any part of the school. The site manager will ensure appropriate and effective ventilation procedures can be implemented to address school days where the indoor working temperature risks exceeding 24°C.

The headteacher will contact parents reminding them to send their children to school with appropriate clothing, sunscreen and a sufficient amount of water.

Where the indoor temperature exceeds 26°C and ventilation measures are unable to address this, the headteacher will decide if the premises or parts of the premises are unsuitable for working. In this event, a statement will be issued to parents via classcharts, letter, email and social media, regarding school full or partial closure.

The school will ensure that relevant staff, including teachers, [sign up to receive Weather-Health Alerts](#) from the UKHSA and the Met Office.

## **8. Pupils and staff at greater risk**

### **Pupils**

The school recognises that some pupils will be more susceptible to high temperatures. This includes:

- Pupils who are overweight
- Pupils taking certain medications
- Pupils with disabilities, complex health needs, and specific medical conditions or disorders, e.g. albinism.

The school nurse or relevant professionals involved in the pupil's care will be asked to advise on particular needs for a pupil. The school will follow any medical advice and all relevant members of staff will be made aware of the risks and how to manage them.

The school's Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy will be adhered to at all times.

### **Staff**



Members of staff who are more susceptible to high temperatures will be asked to consult their GP or other relevant professionals and share with the school advice on additional precautions to take.

General precautions, e.g. being excused from outside playground duty, will be implemented where appropriate for staff members with medical conditions, including those who are pregnant.

## **9. Ill health**

The most common risk to health from heat is dehydration and sunburn. The school will take all sensible precautions to prevent adverse effects, including ensuring pupils wear sunscreen, limit their time exposed to direct sunlight, and are drinking enough fluids.

Relevant staff members will be made aware of how to recognise the signs that a pupil may be suffering from ill health due to the heat. This includes the following:

**Heat stress** – Pupils may appear out of character or show signs of discomfort and irritability, including the symptoms listed below for heat exhaustion. These signs will worsen with physical activity and if left untreated can lead to heat exhaustion or heatstroke.

For children and pupils who use nappies, dark urine or dry nappies may indicate dehydration and the need for more fluids.

**Heat exhaustion** – Symptoms can vary but typically include one or more of the following:

- Tiredness
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Excessive sweating and pale, clammy skin

Where a pupil is suffering from heat exhaustion, the following steps will be taken immediately:

- Moving the pupil to as cool a room as possible and encouraging them to drink cold water
- Cooling the pupil as rapidly as possible, using whatever methods possible, e.g. sponging or spraying the pupil with cool water, placing cold packs around the neck and armpits, wrapping the pupil in a cool, wet sheet, and assisting cooling with a fan.
- Where the pupil does not respond to treatment within 30 minutes, an ambulance will be called.
- If the pupil loses consciousness or has a fit, they will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called immediately; treatment to cool the pupil will continue until the ambulance arrives.

**Heatstroke** – This can develop when heat stress or heat exhaustion is left untreated, but it can also occur suddenly and without warning. Heatstroke is a medical emergency and can be fatal. Symptoms include:

- High body temperature (at or above 40°C is a major sign)
- Red, hot skin that can be sweaty or dry

- Fast heartbeat
- Fast shallow breathing
- Confusion or lack of co-ordination
- Seizures or fits
- Loss of consciousness
- Diarrhoea

Where a pupil is suspected to be suffering from heatstroke, 999 will be called immediately and the pupil will be cooled down in line with the procedures for managing heat illness outlined above whilst awaiting medical assistance.

Where a pupil loses consciousness or experiences a fit, they will be placed in the recovery position, 999 will be called immediately and staff will follow the operator's instructions.

## **10. Curriculum**

Pupils will be taught about the dangers of the sunlight, including sunbeds, and information about sun protection will be incorporated into the curriculum for all ages.

Sun protection will be actively promoted to pupils at key points of the year, such as before and during the Summer term, through assemblies, workshops and lessons.

Information regarding sun protection will be sent to parents in the Spring and Summer terms.

## **11. Monitoring and review**

The headteacher is responsible for reviewing this policy annually.

When evaluating the effectiveness of this policy the following methods will be considered:

- The completion of a sun safety questionnaire by pupils, measuring changes in pupils' knowledge, attitudes and behaviour.
- Gathering feedback from staff, parents and pupils.
- Monitoring incidences of sunburn to see if these are decreasing.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2024

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff, parents and pupils.

## **Parental Consent to Apply Sunscreen**

I recognise that too much UV exposure may increase my child's risk of sunburn and other associated problems.

I, therefore, give permission to the staff at Magnus Church of England Academy to apply a sunscreen product with a sun protection factor of 15 or higher to my child, as specified below, when my child will be playing outside in hot conditions.

I further understand that sunscreen will only be applied to the face, tops of ears, nose, bare shoulders, arms and legs.

**Please complete the form below to ensure the school has all applicable information regarding the use of sunscreen for your child:**

I give staff permission to apply sunscreen to my child.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
My child burns easily.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If you answered yes to the above, please provide more information, e.g. if your child has albinism:		
My child has the following allergies:		
Staff may apply sunscreen to my child but, for medical reasons, only the following brands can be used:		
Staff may apply sunscreen to my child but only to the following areas of my child's body:		

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the pastoral office.