

Heatwave Policy

A heatwave policy involves ensuring pupils' safety and comfort by relaxing uniform rules, adapting PE lessons, ensuring adequate ventilation, closing blinds, and encouraging hydration. While schools do not typically close due to heat, individual school leaders make the final decision to take necessary steps to keep staff and students safe. Teachers should also monitor for signs of heat stress, such as irritability and headaches, and know how to administer first aid for heat-related illnesses like heatstroke.

Key Actions:

- **Monitor Conditions:**
Regularly check classroom temperatures and staff feedback on comfort levels – CO2 monitors constantly measure temperature. All rooms have these, so staff can regularly check the temperature
- **Ventilate Rooms:**
Open windows and doors to create cross-ventilation, especially in the morning before the building heats up. Caretakers open windows when opening up on hot days
- **Manage Sunlight:**
Close indoor blinds or curtains to block sun but avoid obstructing ventilation. Classroom staff to close blinds and curtains as required
- **Reduce Heat Sources:**
Minimize the use of electric lighting and ensure equipment is not left on standby. Stickers on IT equipment to switch off fully, Light switches have stickers on reminding people to switch off when not required
- **Adapt Activities:**
Cancel or modify vigorous physical activities during heatwaves. PE location and activities changed as required, and playground use adapted to suit weather conditions
- **Promote Hydration:**
Ensure students have easy access to drinking water and encourage them to drink frequently – all pupils given water bottles when they join the school, and all pupils are encouraged to bring water bottles in school, they are reminded to drink more in hot weather . Water cooler/dispensers in school.
- **Adjust Uniforms:**
Relax rules on blazers and ties, allowing for light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing. Summer uniform is cool an comfortable
- **Ensure Shade:**
Encourage children to stay in the shade and wear hats and sunscreen. Newsletter and other regular communication with families regarding using sun cream & bringing hats, pupils reminded whilst at school, also shade provided across the school; trees, canopies, plenty of shaded areas

Student Health & First Aid

- **Recognize Symptoms:**

Watch for signs of heat stress, such as irritability, fatigue, headache, nausea, and dizziness. First Aiders across the site, all staff are vigilant and reminded by the SLT

- **Administer First Aid:**
In the event of a suspected heat illness, offer cool water, cool the person with sponges or cool water, and apply cold packs. First Aiders called if required
- **Seek Medical Help:**
If the person does not respond or has a fit or loses consciousness, dial 999 immediately. Staff follow school policy and procedures

Legal and Safety Considerations

- **No Legal Maximum:**
There is no legally defined maximum temperature for a workplace, including schools, but temperatures should be "reasonable" and comfortable. Air Con installed in Kitchen, and other offices and classrooms that get the hottest in summer, also in library to keep the IT server cool
- **School Leader Responsibility:**
School leaders have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring pupils and staff are safe. In all school policies and procedures
- **Risk Assessment:**
Schools should conduct risk assessments, which may lead to decisions such as partial closure or reduced hours if conditions are too severe,. Risk Assessments written for all relevant activities