



Malmesbury School

Sun Protection Guidance

Background

At Malmesbury School we acknowledge the importance of sun protection and want our students and staff to enjoy the sun safely. Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK with incidence of malignant melanoma (the most dangerous form of skin cancer) trebling in 15-24 year olds over the last 25 years. Up to 80% of these cases could be prevented by taking adequate measures to protect from the sun. Sunburn when young can double the risk of skin cancer later in life. Students are at school during the peak UV hours of 11.00am – 3.00pm, thus making sun protection at school vitally important.

Aim

This policy has been drawn up with the intention of enabling all who work at Malmesbury School (students and staff) to enjoy the sun safely. We will work with staff, students and parents to achieve this.

1. Education

- 1.1 All year 7-11 students will receive advice about sun protection during a lesson.
- 1.2 We will discuss the importance of sun protection in assemblies at the start of the summer term and before summer break.
- 1.3 A letter will be posted on the school website explaining what the school is doing about sun protection and how parents can help their child avoid overexposure to the sun.
- 1.4 Parents will be notified of occasions on which students are likely to be in the open for periods of time and advised on sun protection for their child.
- 1.5 Staff will be given advice on sun protection so that a whole school approach is achieved.

2. Protection

- 2.1 We will encourage students to avoid strong, direct sunlight in the following ways:
 - All classroom windows are fitted with full blinds.
 - We have some mature trees in the school grounds and are planting additional trees.
 - We have bought two free-standing permanent shade canopies and will encourage students to use them at times when the sun is strong.
 - Students may remain in common areas of the school at break and lunchtime.
- 2.2 We will work with the school community by encouraging individuals to cover up:
 - We will advise parents that hats, clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen should be provided for students to prevent sunburn.
 - School uniform requires that shoulders are covered.
 - Removing tops during breaks and lunchtimes is prohibited.
- 2.3 We will promote the use of appropriate factor sunscreen:
 - Students will be encouraged to apply factor 15+ sunscreen for all outdoor trips and activities, such as PE lessons (PE and student support staff have extra sunscreen which may be borrowed by students who forget their own).
 - Students will be encouraged to wear hats and sunglasses when appropriate, such as being a spectator at Sports Day, playing cricket, doing field work or any outdoor activity.
 - Staff are encouraged to take appropriate action to protect themselves from the sun, for example, by applying 15+ sunscreen, sunglasses and wearing a hat when working outside. Staff must not apply sunscreen for students.

This guidance will be reviewed in November 2022.

November 2019

