



Blackpool Gateway Academy

Sun Safety Policy

2026

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Date Approved:	April 2026
Review Date:	April 2027
By:	N Makinson

1. Statement of Intent

Blackpool Gateway Academy is committed to protecting the health and wellbeing of all pupils and staff. We recognise that skin damage from ultraviolet (UV) radiation during childhood is a major risk factor for skin cancer in later life. This policy ensures that sun safety is managed effectively through education, protection, and proactive risk assessment.

2. Procedures for Sun Protection

- UV Monitoring: from April to September, the academy will monitor the daily UV forecast. When the UV index is 3 or above, the protective measures in this policy will be strictly enforced.
- Peak Time Restrictions: whenever possible, outdoor activities, PE lessons and sports days will be scheduled outside the peak sun hours of 11:00 am and 3:00 pm.
- Shade Management: pupils will be encouraged to use shaded areas during break times. Staff will monitor high-risk areas, including reflective surfaces like artificial grass or concrete, which can increase UV exposure.
- Hydration: pupils must have unrestricted access to fresh drinking water. During high temperatures, staff will implement mandatory hydration breaks every 20 to 30 minutes.

3. Clothing and Sunscreen

- Sunscreen Standards: parents are asked to provide sunscreen that is a minimum of SPF 30 with a 4 or 5-star UVA rating. The academy will maintain a back-up stock of SPF 30 for pupils who forget their own. Parents sign a consent form after Easter each year for the application of this or to refuse use of the school emergency sunscreen.
- Application: pupils should apply sunscreen before arriving at school. For reapplication during the day:
 - Staff will supervise pupils applying their own cream.
 - Where a pupil (due to age or SEND) requires assistance, two members of staff must be present to adhere to safeguarding and 'Intimate Care' standards.
- Protective Clothing: pupils are encouraged to wear sun hats (preferably with a peak or flap to cover the ears and neck) and lightweight clothing that covers the shoulders when outdoors.

4. Education and Communication

- Curriculum: sun safety will be taught through PSHE and Science lessons, explaining the importance of the 'Slip, Slop, Slap' message.
- Staff Training: all staff will receive annual briefing on recognising the signs of heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

- Parental Engagement: the academy will use newsletters and digital platforms to remind parents of their responsibilities regarding sunscreen and clothing as the weather warms.

Sun Safety Risk Assessment Guidance

Hazard	Risk Level	Control Measures (2026 Standards)
High UV Levels	High	Outdoor play limited/shaded between 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.
Sunburn	High	Use of SPF 30+ (4/5 star UVA). Supervised reapplication.
Heatstroke/Dehydration	Medium	Mandatory water breaks every 20-30 mins in high heat.
Reflective Surfaces	Medium	Use of gazebos/temporary shade over artificial grass/concrete.
Safeguarding (Application)	Low	Two-staff rule for assisting pupils with cream application.

5. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher and Health and Safety Lead will review this policy annually.

Next Review Date: April 2027