An amber warning has been issued by the Met Office for extreme heat from Sunday until the end of Tuesday 19 July.

The DfE and St Barts Multi Academy Trust are not currently advising schools to close.

St Barts Multi Academy Trust and our schools are committed to ensuring our school community is kept safe at all times. We recognise the risks to health posed by overexposure to the sun’s ultraviolet (UV) radiation. We also recognise 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.

The school will be taking the following precautionary measures to maintain a safe school environment during the predicted heatwave.

**What are the school doing?**

* Opening windows and doors earlier in the day
* Minimise the use of electrical lighting and equipment
* Keeping blinds closed to keep teaching spaces cooler, where available.
* Using fans to cool teaching spaces, where available.
* Where available using teaching spaces with cooler environments
* Relaxing uniform rules and advising alternative options
* Avoiding PE lessons or providing PE lessons which are not overly strenuous
* Providing adequate access to drinking water to refill drinks bottles
* Encouraging pupils to drink water based drinks frequently
* Adjusting break times, e.g. extending the morning break and shortening lunchtime, to minimise time spent outdoors in high temperatures.
* Appling sunscreen to Early Years Foundation Stage and pupils with SEND where a permission slip has been completed by parents
* Making available indoor space to allow pupils to move between outdoors and indoors during breaks
* Using outdoor sun awnings for shade where available
* Monitoring pupils for signs of heat stress and sun stroke
* Providing trained first aiders to support pupils who may suffer from a sun related illness

**How can parents help?**

* Applying sunscreen to children before the start of the school day
* Sending children to school with sunscreen at least protection factor (SPF) 15 (roll on type where possible). Please label the sunscreen with child’s name
* Providing consent forms for staff to apply sunscreen to children in Early Years Foundation Stage and pupils with SEND
* Sending children to school wearing a sun-safe hat with neck protection
* Sending children to school wearing lighter weight clothing as advised by the school
* Sending children to school with water based drinks in a lidded break safe bottle (glass bottles are not allowed)
* Talking to children about sun safety