

St. Robert's Catholic



Primary

St Robert's Catholic Primary School

Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Sant Robert

Sun Safety Policy

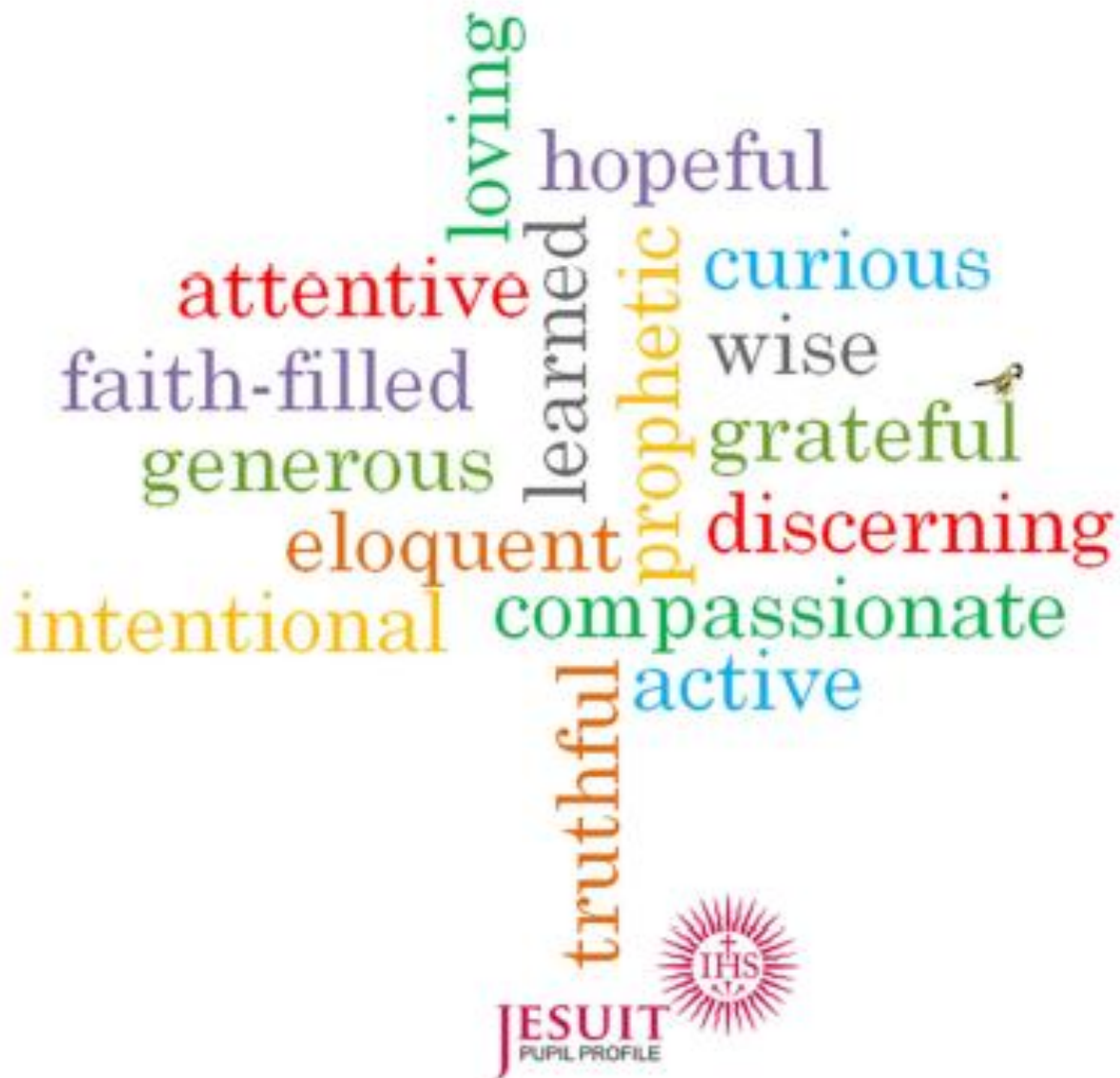
Scope	This policy applies to all stakeholders of the school
Policy Adopted By	Head Teacher and Governing Body
Signed	<i>C Beveridge</i>
Date	Summer 2025
Date of Review	Summer 2027

Mission Statement - 'Jesus in Us' 'Iesu ynom Ni'

Jesus and the 'Good News' that He brings is the basis of our school life.

Each person in our school is unique and our intention is that they will be Ambitious, Capable Learners, Ethically, Informed Citizens, Enterprising, Creative Contributors & Healthy, Confident Individuals.

They will be Virtue - led and develop to their full potential - with Jesus as their guide, the Holy Spirit as their inspiration and God as their loving Father.



Rationale

The incidence of skin cancer in the UK has doubled over the last 15 years and continues to rise. It is the most common form of cancer in the country and is almost always caused by the sun. Skin cancer is therefore preventable and by protecting the skin of young children and teenagers it is possible to reduce the risk of sunburn and cumulative damage caused by the sun. There is evidence that sunburn in childhood increases the risk of skin cancer later in life. Protection against the sun is necessary when UV radiation levels are at their highest.

In the UK this is:

- . Between April and September.
- . Between 11 am and 3 pm.
- . On cloudless days even when the temperature is not high or there is a cooling wind (although cloud reduces UV levels, it is still possible to burn under light cloud).
- . When UV is also reflected, adding to the overall intensity that reaches the skin; light surfaces like concrete, water, sand and snow reflect UV.

Aims

- To raise awareness among children of the dangers of excessive sun exposure through appropriate curriculum areas, particularly Science, PSE and PE.
- To explain the different levels of risk for individuals to staff, parents and pupils, so that everyone is clear who is most at risk and why this group might receive special attention.
- To create a suitable environment with adequate shade and protection.
- To provide access to indoor spaces during very hot break times after the necessary risk assessment has been undertaken, similarly to the school's wet weather procedures.
- To encourage children to bring to school and wear protective clothing e.g. sun hats, tops that cover shoulders, necks and arms.
- To take appropriate precautions and risk assessments for all activities such as Sports Day, After-school sports and clubs, school outings and trips.
- To provide access to fresh water supplies and provision of advice on regular consumption of liquid to prevent dehydration.

Use of Sunscreen in School

Our policy is to permit and encourage the use of sunscreens provided by parents/carers in school, when our risk assessment indicates it is required, and will endeavour to ensure that they are used correctly through -

- . Ensuring parental permission – parental/carer involvement in the implementation of sun safety measures is essential. Parents/carers will be asked to complete a consent form/send a Dojo indicating relating to sun protection procedures.(Appendix 1)
- . Reminding parents/carers that sunscreen provided should be of SPF15 or above depending on the individual child’s needs and that they are responsible for giving their child clear directions on how to apply sunscreen safely and effectively. If possible to use 8 hour protection sunscreen to limit the need for re-application throughout the day.
- . Teaching and support staff reinforcing directions on how to apply sunscreen safely and effectively.
- . Key Stage 1 children keeping their named sunscreen in a class container to enable staff to monitor application.
- . Whenever possible teachers supervising the application of sun screen. Self-application of sunscreen, where necessary, by pupils is the preferred option and in most circumstances. Sometimes it may be necessary for teachers or support staff to help or support children to apply the sunscreen, particularly in the Foundation Phase. There is no legal requirement for staff to do this and they will do so using their professional judgment. (See Appendix 2)

Staff

Teachers and support staff will be familiar with the aims and guidance in this policy and ensure that they are correctly implemented. Staff will follow protective procedures and act as role models. The school will endeavour to convey a positive message so that children can enjoy outdoor safety by being “sunwise”. This policy will be monitored, reviewed and amended regularly and as required. It has been endorsed and accepted by the Governing Body.

Appendix 1

ST. ROBERT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sun Safety at School



Dear Parents,

As the hotter weather is here (hopefully!!!) we are concerned about protecting pupils from sunburn and skin damage that can be caused by the harmful ultra-violet rays in sunlight. We believe that by encouraging sun safe behaviour at school and teaching children about the risk of skin cancer, we can reduce serious skin conditions later in life.

We would like your help and support with this matter. Can you please help us by ensuring:

- Your child brings a suitable sun hat to school every day during hot weather periods.
- You/your child applies sunscreen before coming to school each morning.
- Your child brings sunscreen (non aerosol) with sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or above to apply during break times as appropriate.
- If you are able to apply an 8 hour protection in the morning before school this will reduce the need for re-application throughout the day.

We would ask that you put your child's name on their sunscreen and your child hands their sunscreen to their class teacher so they can be kept safe. Under no circumstances should children share cream unless with a brother/sister. Children will be asked to re-apply sunscreen themselves at lunchtime. Younger children will be helped by staff.

I would ask that you complete the attached form so that we have a record of your support and wishes with regard to sunscreen used by your child/ren.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Beveridge

I have received advice from the school with regard to sun safety and agree to provide my child/children with the necessary protection.

I have provided sunscreen for my child and I am happy for an adult to help to apply this if necessary.

Signed _____ Date _____

Child's name _____ Class _____

Appendix 2

Under the terms and conditions of their contracts, teachers are not required to administer medicines or to give first aid to pupils. There is however no legislation that prevents teachers and support staff from administering sunscreens where other controls cannot provide protection, but this would have to be on a purely voluntary basis. Teachers will use their professional judgment to decide whether or not they volunteer to administer medication or sunscreen. Where, through risk assessment, it has been decided that all other control measures such as limiting exposure and use of shade, are either inadequate or unavailable and the use of sunscreen to provide protection cannot be avoided, the following advice must be considered:

- . The protective effect of sunscreen products is reduced over time, as the sunscreen is absorbed and/or rubbed-off.
- . Sunscreen applied before school, generally, provides insufficient protection for a whole day, unless specific long-life creams have been used.
- . Most children will be able, with some direction, to apply sunscreens themselves and self-application is recommended.
- . Dermatologists recommend that a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or above, and capable of protecting against UVA and UVB spectra, will provide children in this country with adequate protection. Sunscreens should not be used to prolong the amount of time spent in the sun but as a form of protection when other measures are unavailable or impractical, or when additional protection is required.

At school, this would include:

- . Outdoor breaks, particularly lunch breaks.
- . PE, swimming, or other outdoor lessons.
- . Sports days.
- . Educational visits.

Where the decision has been made to use sunscreen as a control measure, it will be necessary to ensure that they are applied correctly; teachers need to advise pupils to:

- . Use about a dessert spoon of the cream/lotion (sufficient for a child, the equivalent for babies and adults is about a teaspoon and tablespoon respectively).
- . Spread it evenly over the exposed areas of the body (face, neck, arms and legs) with particular attention to those areas that burn easily, such as the ears and neck.
- . Rub it in well.
- . Young children and some children with special needs may require assistance.

Teachers should avoid touching a pupil in a way that might be considered indecent and should be aware of those children for whom touching is unwelcome. Permission for someone else to apply sunscreen must be gained from parents and carers.

Teachers who do help to apply sunscreens should do so only to the face, neck and arms and in accordance with relevant school policies.

The risk assessment process must include consideration of horseplay and the levels of supervision required to ensure that pupils who bring their own sunscreens to school use such products appropriately.