

HOT WEATHER POLICY

Nurseries and Schools have a duty of care to children and staff at all times: this duty of care includes protection against hot weather, inside and outside classrooms.

Prolonged spells of hot weather have identified a need to advise schools - and in turn parents, staff members and children - of the procedures to be adopted when the temperatures inside the buildings reach levels that might impact upon the health and safety of pupils and vulnerable adults (eg those known to be suffering from asthma).

There are no specific legal maximum working temperatures for schools or offices; however there are two sources of legal protection for both staff and children. The HSE at Work Act 1974 and Regulation 7 of the Workplace (HSE & Welfare) Regulations 1992.

The Department for Education recommends a maximum working temperature of 35 degrees C. Please be aware however, that temperatures inside school and nursery buildings are usually cooler when the outside temperature exceeds 30 degrees. Actions are immediately taken to minimise outdoor activities to ensure children are cool and that they drink additional water.

If required, the decision to close the school and nursery will take into account factors, which include location, building design and whether or not the buildings have adequate ventilation. The Headteacher and Nursery Manager will authorise a message via email, telephone and on the school's website, explaining when and how children can be collected or sent home. If, for some reason, parents/carers do not pick pupils up from school or are not available to receive pupils at home, then programmed lessons will run until the end of the school and nursery day and staff will seek the coolest temporary locations to work in.

Parents may pick up their children at any time if they believe their child is suffering from the heat.

Outing risk assessments must have a provision that states the trip will not take place if the temperature is over a certain temperature. This is decided on each specific trip according to age of children, how much walking is involved, destination, time of day etc.

Consideration should be given to cancelling sports day if the forecast temperature on the BBC news the evening before is over 32 degrees. If Sports Day proceeds adequate shade and water supply must be available.

Children should be kept under shade during lunch time, break time and any outdoor activities.

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the office.