



14th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We have now been issued advice from the Department for Education (DFE) to help schools remain open and protect children and staff in a heatwave.

Much of the advice is common sense and good practice in the summer months anyway, but I thought I would share it with you to reassure you that MNSP schools are planning to mitigate as much as possible, the impact of the hot weather forecast for early next week.

Advice issued to all schools in the MNSP from the DFE:

Protecting children outdoors

During periods of high temperature, the following steps should be taken:

- Children should not take part in vigorous physical activity on very hot days, such as when temperatures are in excess of 30°C.
- Encourage children playing outdoors to stay in the shade as much as possible.
- Children should wear loose, light-coloured clothing to help keep cool and sunhats with wide brims to avoid sunburn.
- Use sunscreen (at least factor 15 with UVA protection) to protect skin if children are playing or taking lessons outdoors for more than 20 minutes.
- Provide children with plenty of water (such as water from a cold tap) and encourage them to drink more than usual when conditions are hot.

Protecting children indoors

During periods of high temperature, the following steps should be taken:

- Open windows as early as possible in the morning before children arrive, or preferably overnight to allow stored heat to escape from the building – it is important to check insurance conditions and the need for security if windows are to be left open overnight.
- Almost close windows when the outdoor air becomes warmer than the air indoors – this should help keep the heat out while allowing adequate ventilation.
- Use outdoor sun awnings if available, or close indoor blinds or curtains, but do not let them block window ventilation.
- Keep the use of electric lighting to a minimum.
- Switch off all electrical equipment, including computers, monitors and printers when not in use – equipment should not be left in 'standby mode' as this generates heat.
- If possible, use those classrooms or other spaces which are less likely to overheat, and adjust the layout of teaching spaces to avoid direct sunlight on children.





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- Oscillating mechanical fans can be used to increase air movement if temperatures are below 35°C.
- Encourage children to eat normally and drink plenty of cool water.

By following this guidance and planning ahead, we should not need to close schools or adjust timings of the school day. There may be some alterations to trips due to run in the early part of next week and individual schools will contact the appropriate parents and carers about this if necessary.

If children become overheated, we have guidance to follow to support them to re-regulate their temperatures.

I thought this guidance would be helpful for the weekend for families as temperatures on Sunday look particularly high.

Kind regards

Alun Williams
CEO

