# STANBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Heatwave Policy

# Policy

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| **Last Reviewed:** | **June 2026** |
| **Committee responsible:** | **N/A** |
| **Next Review Date:** | **June 2028** |
| **Approved by:** | **Mrs E D'Souza** |

# Heatwave Policy

**Purpose**

Stanburn Primary School is committed to ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of pupils, staff, and visitors during periods of extreme hot weather and heatwaves.

This policy outlines the measures the school will take to:
reduce risks associated with excessive heat,
maintain safe learning environments,
support pupil wellbeing,
and ensure appropriate operational responses during heatwave conditions.

The school recognises that high temperatures can pose health risks, particularly for young children and vulnerable individuals.

**Scope**
This policy applies to:
all pupils,
staff,
governors,
visitors,
contractors,
and all school activities taking place on school premises or during off-site visits.

**Definition of a Heatwave**

For the purposes of this policy, a heatwave refers to periods of unusually high temperatures as identified by:
UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) alerts,
Met Office weather warnings,
or local authority guidance.

The school will monitor official weather guidance during warmer months

## Aims
Stanburn Primary School aims to:
protect pupils and staff from heat-related illness,
maintain safe indoor and outdoor environments,
minimise disruption to learning where possible,
ensure adequate hydration and sun protection,
and respond effectively to heat-related risks.

## Roles and Responsibilities
Governing Body

The Governing Body will:
support implementation of this policy,
ensure appropriate health and safety measures are in place,
and review the policy annually.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:
monitor heatwave guidance and alerts,
coordinate the school's response,
communicate with parents and staff where necessary,
and make operational decisions to protect health and safety.

Site Management Team

The Site Team will:
monitor classroom temperatures where appropriate,
ensure ventilation systems and fans are functioning,
identify cooler areas within the building,
and support heat reduction measures across the site.

Staff

Staff are expected to:
encourage regular hydration,
monitor pupils for signs of heat stress,
adapt activities where necessary,
and report concerns promptly.
Parents and Carers

Parents are encouraged to:

send children with refillable water bottles,
provide sun hats where appropriate,
apply sunscreen before school,
and ensure pupils wear suitable lightweight clothing.

**Preventative Measures**

During periods of hot weather, the school may implement the following measures:

Hydration
Pupils and staff will have regular access to drinking water.
Water bottles should be available throughout the school day.
Additional hydration breaks may be introduced.

Classroom Management

The school will seek to:
keep blinds or curtains closed during peak sunlight,
maximise ventilation where safe,
use fans where available,
relocate activities to cooler areas where possible,
and minimise use of heat-generating equipment when appropriate.

## Outdoor Activities

The school may:

limit strenuous physical activity,
reschedule PE lessons,
reduce outdoor exposure during peak heat hours,
provide shaded play areas where possible,
and adapt sports day or outdoor events if necessary.

## Clothing and Uniform

During extreme heat:
reasonable adjustments to uniform expectations may be permitted,
lightweight clothing may be allowed,
and hats may be encouraged for outdoor activities.

### Identifying Heat-Related Illness

Staff should be aware of signs of heat-related illness, including:
dizziness,
headaches,
excessive tiredness,
nausea,
confusion,
heavy sweating,
cramps,
or fainting.

Any pupil or staff member displaying symptoms should:
move to a cool area,
rest,
drink water,
and receive first aid support if required.

Emergency medical assistance should be sought where symptoms are severe or persistent.

### Educational Visits and Outdoor Events

Risk assessments for trips and outdoor activities during warmer weather should consider:
temperature forecasts,
access to shade,
water availability,
duration of exposure,
and suitability of planned activities.

Activities may be postponed, adapted, or cancelled where risks are considered unacceptable.

Where significant heatwave conditions are expected, the school may communicate with parents and carers regarding:

- hydration reminders,
- clothing expectations,
- sunscreen guidance,
- operational changes,
- and event adjustments

**Equality and Inclusion**

The school recognises that some individuals may be more vulnerable to heat, including:

younger children,
pupils with medical conditions,
disabled pupils,
and pregnant staff members.

**Monitoring and Review**

The school will review incidents, operational responses, and any lessons learned following periods of extreme heat.

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if required due to updated national guidance.

**Linked Policies**

This policy should be read alongside:

- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Risk Assessment Procedures
- Premises Management Policy

References

The school will have regard to relevant guidance including:
UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Heat Health Alerts
Met Office severe weather guidance
Department for Education health and safety expectations