

Whitehall Park School: Hot Weather Risk Assessment July 2022

<p>Purpose of Risk Assessment The National Heatwave Alert Level for London and the Southeast has now been increased to Level 3 for Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th July 2022, indicating a significant probability of temperatures rising high enough to cause some health risks</p> <p>To review our risk assessment for looking after children and those in early years during heatwaves. The main risk from heat is dehydration.</p>	<p>People Involved All staff and children at Whitehall Park School</p>
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Theme What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how? (Who is at special risk)	What are you already doing? (Current control measures, including those for people at special risk)	What further action is necessary? (Further control measures)	RISK LEVEL (Low, Medium, High)	Action by whom	Additional Information/ Review Notes.
<p>Health risks from heat Children cannot control their body temperature as efficiently as adults during hot weather because they do not sweat as much and so can be at risk of ill-health from heat. Heat- related illness can range from mild heat stress to potentially life-threatening heatstroke.</p>	<p>Children and adults in school</p>	<p>The children have water bottles in school and are encouraged to drink during the day. We have a water available in the hall, children who come into the hall at lunchtime without a drink gets drinks from the water station.</p>	<p>Staff to remind children to have drinks throughout the day. Suggest to the families the children bring in an extra water bottle, the main objective is to make sure the children have plenty of liquid during the day.</p> <p>Allow the children to go to the toilet during lessons if they need to.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>All staff</p>	<p>All staff need to be encouraging the children to drink.</p>

<p>Health risks from heat For all staff to be very clear about the signs of heat stress, heat exhaustion and heatstroke.</p>	<p>Children and adults in school</p>	<p>This risk assessment informs the staff of the signs to look out for.</p>	<p>Heat stress Children suffering from heat stress may seem out of character or show signs of discomfort and irritability (including those listed below for heat exhaustion). These signs will worsen with physical activity and if left untreated can lead to heat exhaustion or heatstroke.</p> <p>Heat exhaustion Symptoms of heat exhaustion vary but include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  tiredness  dizziness  headache  nausea vomiting  hot, red and dry skin  confusion <p>Heatstroke When the body is exposed to very high temperatures, the mechanism that controls body temperature may stop working. Heatstroke can develop if heat stress or heat exhaustion is left untreated, but it can also occur suddenly and without warning. Symptoms of heatstroke may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  high body temperature – a temperature of or above 40°C (104°F) is a major sign of heatstroke 	<p>Medium</p>	<p>All staff</p>	<p>Staff need to monitor the children (and each other) carefully.</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">  red, hot skin and sweating that then suddenly stops  fast heartbeat  fast shallow breathing  confusion/lack of co-ordination  fits  loss of consciousness <p>NB Actions to protect children suffering from heat illness The following steps to reduce body temperature should be taken immediately: Move the child to as cool a room as possible and encourage them to drink cool water (such as water from a cold tap). Cool the child as rapidly as possible, using whatever methods you can. For example, sponge or spray the child with cool (25 to 30°C) water – if available, place cold packs around the neck and armpits, or wrap the child in a cool, wet sheet and assist cooling with a fan. Dial 999 to request an ambulance if the person doesn't respond to the above treatment within 30 minutes. If a child loses consciousness, or has a fit, place the child in the recovery position, call 999 immediately.</p>			
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<p>Protecting children outdoors</p>	<p>Children and adults in school</p>	<p>The children won't be participating in vigorous physical activity. We will monitor the temperature outside each day and decide if the children can go out. If they do, they will have to stay in the shade at the side of the playground and in the woodland areas.</p>	<p>Inform the families the children can wear PE shorts and light trainers if they wish. All children will need sunhats with wide brims to avoid sunburn, they may bring in sunglasses to protect their eyes. Inform the families the children need to use sunscreen (at least factor 15 with UVA protection) before they come into school.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>All staff</p>	<p>Inform families via email, text.</p>
<p>Protecting children indoors</p>	<p>Children and adults in school</p>	<p>Open windows as early as possible in the morning before children arrive. (MR,AH whoever is in school first)</p>	<p>Tell staff to almost close windows when the outdoor air becomes warmer than the air indoors – this should help keep the heat out while allowing adequate ventilation. Close indoor blinds or curtains, but do not let them block window ventilation. keep the use of electric lighting to a minimum – don't use the computer suite / laptops in classrooms if possible. Reduce the use of the IWB (equipment should not be left in 'standby mode' as this generates heat)</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>All staff</p>	<p>Inform staff about opening the doors and windows.</p>

Friday 15th July: Decision to close KS2 for Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th July 22

Senior Leadership Team and the Site Manager have conducted a risk assessment of the safety of the Key Stage 2 classrooms: Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, as the air circulation system is faulty and not equipped to manage such extreme heat. Online learning will be available for children to access.

The school will be open as usual for Key Stage 1: Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.