



At St Mary's we champion every child to be the **best that they can be**. Our knowledge-led curriculum therefore endeavours to develop our children's **character, core skills, creativity** and sense of **community**.

Supported by our school's vision, ethos and position as a junior school, we believe that our specialist knowledge of the Key Stage 2 age range ensures **improving outcomes, opportunities and experiences for all our children**. To achieve this, we are aspirational for our pupils, instilling high expectations, the passion, perseverance and stamina to succeed.

Hot Weather and Heatwave Guidance

Ely St Mary's CofE Junior School

Written/reviewed by:	Rebecca Gilpin-Davies	Date: 30th June 2026
Next review due by:	30th June 2028	
Related documents:	ESM School Uniform Guidance UKHSA Guidance: Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals (Dec 2024) DfE Guidance: Hot weather and heatwaves: guidance for schools and other education settings (June 2026)	

1. Introduction and aims

Young children are more at risk of becoming ill with heat-related issues. This guidance takes into account advice from the DfE, and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and sets out the key actions that we will take to keep adults and children safe in hot weather.

2. Roles and responsibilities

The Met Office provides heat health alerts during periods of hot weather. Ely St Mary's have signed up to receive these alerts (outlined below) and will use them to determine when the 'ESM hot weather and heat guidance' comes into effect. For most pupils, the policy will be implemented when the Met Office issues an amber or red alert.

The school will use Bromcom (MCAS App) to communicate to any messages about heat health alerts. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to check for communications from the school and take appropriate action.

Please note that in the case of a yellow heat health alert, some vulnerable pupils may be impacted. If parents and carers believe that their child(ren) are impacted more by the heat due, for example, a pre-existing medical condition or SEND need and require arrangements that differ from those set out in this guidance, they should contact the headteacher in the first instance to discuss these.

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Responsibility Excellence Spirituality Perseverance Energy Caring Tolerance

Amber Alerts	Indicate possible health risks to the wider population , so we will consider actions to manage heat for all pupils and staff as well as for the most vulnerable.
Red Alerts	Indicate possible significant health risks to the wider population , so we will review actions to manage heat for all pupils and staff.

3. Adaptations

a) Clothing

When the school receives a Met Office heat health alert, pupils will be invited to attend school in their PE kits. Parents and carers should also ensure that their child brings a sunhat to school. Sunscreen with high protection factors should be used to protect the skin. Ideally, this should be applied before school, however, pupils may bring sunscreen into school and reapply it themselves before outdoor activities.

b) Activities

Teachers will plan to ensure that pupils do not take part in vigorous physical activity on days when a Met Office health alert is issued. This will include moving outdoor PE lessons indoors where possible, or replacing them with an alternative indoor activity. After school clubs involving vigorous physical activity will be adapted where possible or canceled in the event that they cannot be adapted. Parents and carers will be notified by phone of any cancellations before lunchtime to allow for alternative arrangements to be made.

c) Protecting children outdoors

The headteacher will make a decision about whether breaktimes and lunchtimes will take place indoors or outdoors based on temperatures. If children are outdoors, they will be reminded not to take part in vigorous activities, and will be asked to stay in the shade as much as possible. Children will be reminded to take their water bottles and sunhats outside with them.

d) Protecting children and adults indoors

- The site manager or headteacher will open classroom windows early in the morning to allow stored heat to escape from the building.
- Where blinds or curtains are fitted, these will be closed to keep out the heat.
- If possible, close windows during the day when it is hotter outside than inside whilst considering the need to maintain adequate ventilation and air quality.
- if possible, use classrooms or other spaces which are less likely to overheat, and adjust the layout of teaching spaces to avoid direct sunlight on children
- switch off all electrical equipment, including computers, monitors and printers when not in use – do not leave equipment in ‘standby mode’ as this generates heat
- use oscillating mechanical fans to increase air movement if temperatures are **below 35°C (above this temperature they may be counterproductive)**

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- consider rearranging school start, finish, and play times to avoid teaching during very hot conditions
- encourage children to eat normally and drink plenty of water

e) Trips, Visits and Events

When the school receives notification of a Met Office heat health warning, any pre-planned trips and visits will be reviewed to ensure the safety of pupils. In the event of extreme weather, trips, visits or events may be cancelled. In the event of a cancellation, the school cannot guarantee a refund of money.

f) Food Provision

To protect staff working in the school kitchen, menus will be reviewed during extreme hot weather. Hot meal options may be replaced by cold options such as sandwiches.