

# Amadeus

Primary Academies Trust



Limitless Learning Together

## Subject: HOT WEATHER RISK ASSESSMENTS

Date of Issue: 15/07/2021

Action	URGENT		Function	Information	✓
	IMPORTANT	✓		Guidance	✓
				Data Collection	
				Bidding opportunity	
				Courses	
				Other	

### Summary :

This guidance will assist schools in reviewing health and safety arrangements for protecting staff, pupils and visitors during hot weather

The Met Office has implemented their Heat Health Watch, and as part of the MATs Heatwave Plan (July 2021). Schools are advised to take appropriate precautions during the summer period and attached is a Risk Assessment to assist.

Excessive exposure to heat can cause dehydration and heat exhaustion. It can also lead to loss of concentration and tiredness contributing to poor learning and an increased risk of accidents.

Health and safety regulations require employers to undertake risk assessment wherever there is a significant risk of harm to their employees and others e.g. prolonged exposure to heat such as the sun. Therefore, in carrying out a risk assessment, staff should adopt the following steps below:

Five steps to risk assessment (see checklist proforma attached Appendix 1).

1. Identify the hazards (anything that can cause harm)
2. Decide who might be harmed and how
3. Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
4. Record your findings and implement them
5. Review your assessment and update if necessary

Temperatures requirements are covered by the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 and provide information on a minimum temperature of **16 degrees Celsius** for sedentary work – **or 13 degrees Celsius** for physical activities.

**There is no legal upper temperature limit**, even though some groups have suggested a maximum temperature of 30°C. It is therefore essential that the employer determines what reasonable comfort for their specific workplace.

Although there is no maximum working temperature there is a requirement that temperature inside buildings shall be reasonable in accordance to the needs of the staff and service users etc.

There are many practical precautionary measures that can be introduced as part of a risk assessment to improve the working environment during spells of hot weather.

**The school have an additional hot weather checklist in place. The risk assessment checklist covers Key Areas such as:**

- 1. General arrangements for identifying staff/pupils with special needs**
- 2. Outdoors Activities**
- 3. Indoors Activities**
- 4. Emergency Action if heat stress or heat exhaustion is suspected**

If you have any queries regarding the completion of this Risk Assessment and require advice please contact APAT central team (details on the website).

Where the temperature is forecast to exceed 30 degrees the following are mandatory actions across the Trust to ensure the wellbeing of pupils alongside the actions decided at school level:

- No PE or physical exercise will take place – including pre/post school
- All children can attend school in loose PE kits
- If outside children must be wearing a sunhat – preferably with a wide rim
- Children **MUST** only be outside for very short times unless shade is available
- Schools **MUST** remind parents of the need for sunscreen
- Schools **MUST** timetable in regular water breaks throughout the day
- Schools **MUST** consider the needs of pregnant teachers who will feel the effects of the heat more acutely than anyone else and may, eg the need to be excused playground duty.
- Staff dress codes **MUST** be relaxed to enable comfort and safety
- All openable windows **MUST** be open, with shades down where available
- Where room temperatures cannot be regulated, schools **MUST** consider use of other available spaces
- Lights should remain off where safe to do so

