



Warm Weather Protocol

Hounslow schools follow guidance from GOV.UK regarding warm weather, prioritising student well-being and safety. UK Government website states that 'attendance at school is paramount for children's wellbeing and schools should remain open, even in heatwave conditions.' June 2025.

Schools adapt their operations, including adjusting outdoor activities, providing water breaks, and ensuring adequate ventilation, to mitigate the effects of heat. While schools are unlikely to close due to heat alone, headteachers can close schools if safety is compromised.

Measures in place at St Mary's for when temperature exceeds 28°C:

General Guidelines:

- **Risk Assessment:**

SLT conduct risk assessments to determine the impact of hot weather and implement appropriate measures.

- **Communication:**

We inform parents and staff about potential risks and preventative measures through our app, newsletters, emails and website.

- **Flexibility:**

We may adjust timetables, outdoor activities, and start/end times to minimise exposure to the hottest parts of the day.

- **Hydration:**

We encourage students to drink plenty of water and provide access to water throughout the day.

- **Clothing:**

We may relax uniform policies to allow for more comfortable clothing during hot weather eg no ties, loosen shirt buttons, sunhats for outdoors.

Specific Measures:

- **Indoor Environment:**

We open windows early in the morning to release stored heat, close blinds or curtains to block sunlight, and switch off electrical equipment to reduce heat generation. Fans are provided for classrooms.

- **Outdoor Activities:**

We may restrict outdoor activities during the hottest periods, provide shaded areas, and encourage frequent water breaks. Lunchtime outdoor play is shortened and children are brought indoors to cool down and have a water break.

- **Vulnerable Students:**

We pay close attention to vulnerable students and staff members who may be more susceptible to heat-related illnesses eg those with asthma or ongoing health conditions.

- **Monitoring:**

Teachers and staff are on alert to recognise signs of heat stress, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke in children.

- **School Closure:**

While not automatic, headteachers can close schools if the heat poses a significant safety risk.

Hounslow-Specific Considerations:

- **Local Authority Guidance:**

Hounslow schools may also refer to guidance from the London Borough of Hounslow regarding specific local issues related to hot weather.