

AMAT Primary Heatwave Policy

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1. Purpose

This policy ensures that all AMAT primary schools implement consistent, safe, and effective procedures during periods of extreme heat. It aims to safeguard pupils, staff, and visitors, ensure continuity of education, and provide clear operational expectations across the trust.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- all pupils aged 3–11
- all staff and volunteers
- visitors and contractors on site
- all school-led activities both on and off site

3. Definitions

AMAT follows the UK Met Office Heat-Health Alert System, including Yellow, Amber, and Red Alerts, and applies HSE and DfE requirements for safe working temperatures.

3.1 Heat Wave

AMAT follows the **UK Met Office Heat-Health Alert System**, including:

- **Yellow & Amber Alerts:** Increased risks for vulnerable groups; additional precautions required.
- **Red Alert:** Significant population-wide risk; enhanced safety measures and senior leadership decisions required.

3.2 Extreme Working Conditions

Although no maximum legal temperature exists in UK schools, AMAT applies:

- Health and Safety Executive (HSE) requirement for a “reasonable temperature”
- DfE duty to ensure pupils learn in safe conditions

4. Trust Roles & Responsibilities

The Trust Executive Team, Headteachers, Site Managers, Staff, and Parents each have duties to ensure safe responses to heat events.

4.1 Trust Executive Team

- Maintain oversight of operational readiness during heat events.
- Provide central communication templates.
- Support headteachers in risk-based decisions (e.g., altered schedules).

4.2 Headteachers

- Monitor local Met Office alerts daily during summer periods.
- Implement preventive and responsive heat measures.
- Ensure staff, pupils, and parents are informed of any operational changes.

4.3 Site Managers / Premises Teams

- Maintain good ventilation, blinds, and cooling equipment.
- Ensure hydration stations and drinking water systems are operational.
- Provide shaded outdoor areas where possible.

4.4 Staff

- Ensure pupils have regular hydration breaks.
- Adapt activities based on heat risk assessments.
- Monitor children for signs of heat-related illness.

4.5 Parents / Carers

- Provide refillable water bottles.
- Apply long-lasting sunscreen before school.
- Provide sun hats in hot weather.

5. Preventative Measures

Hydration, uniform adjustments, classroom ventilation, shaded outdoor areas, and restrictions on outdoor physical activity are required during heat waves.

5.1 Hydration

- All schools must provide easily accessible fresh drinking water.
- Teachers to schedule hydration breaks at least once per hour during heatwave conditions.
- Lunchtime staff must encourage drinking during breaks.

5.2 Clothing & Uniform Adjustments

- Headteachers may relax uniform rules (e.g., no ties, blazers, jumpers).
- PE kit may be worn all day if heat is sustained.
- Sun hats strongly recommended outdoors.

5.3 Classroom Environment

- Blinds or curtains closed on sun-facing windows.
- Maximise ventilation through windows and doors where possible.
- Use fans, cool zones, or room reassignment based on a heat risk assessment.
- Avoid use of rooms with known overheating issues during peak temperatures.

5.4 Outdoor Activity Restrictions

- No strenuous physical activity between **11:00 – 15:00** during an alert.
- PE to be adapted, moved indoors, or cancelled.
- Breaks may be staggered, shortened, or moved to shaded zones.
- Outdoor assemblies not permitted during amber/red alerts.

6. Operational Response During Alerts

Yellow, Amber, and Red Alerts each trigger escalating operational measures, including indoor learning, timetable adjustments, and cancellations of non-essential activities.

6.1 Yellow Alert

- Communicate general heat precautions to staff & parents.
- Increase hydration and shade access.
- Lesson-by-lesson activity adaptations.

6.2 Amber Alert

- Mandatory indoor PE.
- Mandatory uniform relaxation.
- Risk assessments to identify and avoid hot classrooms.
- Consider timetable adjustments.

6.3 Red Alert

- Indoor learning all day.
- Consider staggered, shortened, or indoor-only breaks.
- Cancel non-essential activities, trips, clubs, and events.
- Executive Team consulted for any partial closure (rare and last resort).

7. Medical Procedures

Staff must monitor for heat stress symptoms and act immediately, following first aid procedures and calling 999 if required.

Staff must monitor for:

- headaches
- fast breathing
- dizziness
- hot, red or dry skin
- confusion / lethargy
- vomiting

Immediate Actions:

1. Remove child to a cool area.
2. Provide water in small, frequent sips.
3. Sponge with cool water if appropriate.
4. Follow first aid procedures.

5. Call 999 if symptoms escalate or do not rapidly improve.

8. Communication Expectations

Schools must use their standard channels (email/text/app/website) to communicate:

- uniform changes
- timetable adaptations
- cancellation of events/trips
- reminders regarding hydration and sun safety

9. Record Keeping

Schools must retain heat-related risk assessments, communication logs, first aid records, and decision logs.

Schools must retain:

- heat risk assessments
- communication logs
- any first aid logs relating to heat-related illness
- operational decisions made during amber/red alerts

10. Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed:

- **annually**
- **after any major heat event**
- when Met Office, DfE, or HSE guidance changes

Primary Heads and the Director for Primary Education will evaluate the effectiveness of responses and update procedures as required.



Safeguarding Responsibilities for Parents During a School Heatwave

During periods of extreme heat, it is important that parents help safeguard their children before they arrive at school. The following guidance outlines key responsibilities to support children's wellbeing and safety.

1. Preparing Your Child for the School Day

- Apply high-factor sun cream (SPF 30 or above) before your child leaves home.
- Dress your child in lightweight, breathable clothing in line with school expectations.
- Provide a filled, labelled water bottle to ensure they remain hydrated.
- Ensure your child has a sun hat for outdoor time.

2. Supporting Hydration and Wellbeing

- Encourage your child to drink water throughout the day, not only when thirsty.
- Explain to your child that they should inform a trusted adult immediately if they feel unwell or too hot.
- Avoid sending sugary or energy drinks which increase dehydration.

3. Safe Travel and Arrival

- Plan journeys to minimise prolonged direct exposure to the sun where possible.
- Ensure your child has access to shade while waiting at drop-off or collection points.
- Remind your child never to wait in a closed vehicle, even for a short period.

4. Communication With School

- Inform the school of any medical needs that may be affected by heat (e.g., respiratory conditions).
- Make sure emergency contact details are current and accurate.
- Regularly check school updates regarding heatwave measures, adapted schedules, or altered uniform expectations.

5. When to Keep Your Child at Home


- Keep your child at home if they show signs of heat exhaustion such as dizziness, nausea, or unusual tiredness.
- Do not send your child to school if they have a fever or are otherwise too unwell to cope with the heat.
- Seek medical advice if symptoms persist or worsen.

For further advice, please follow guidance from the UK Health Security Agency and your child's school.

During a Heatwave

Drink plenty of water. 



Stay out of the sun. 



Wear a sun hat 



Tell an adult if you feel ill 

