

**Great Barton CE Primary Academy  
Extreme Weather Risk Assessment**

#Growth, #Respect, #Enjoy, #Achieve, #Team

*"The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad" Psalm 126:3*



<b>Date of assessment:</b>	July 2022
<b>Assessed by (job title / name):</b>	Claire Ratley Headteacher
<b>Other personnel involved with assessment:</b>	Shared with Shane Hales (Business Manager) Kate Barry (COG)
<b>Activity to be assessed (or scenario):</b>	Hazard: Great Barton Primary is located in an area that the Met Office has issued an Amber Extreme Heat Warning (Medium Likelihood of High Impacts), for on Monday 18 July and Tuesday 19 July 2022 (issued Friday 15 July at 10:28). Although it should be noted that it is on the periphery of the red warning area and may change. The MET Office is predicting a high of 35 degrees on both Monday 18 July and Tuesday 19 July 2022. The BBC is predicting 39 degrees on both days (should the MET office update its heat warnings in line with the BBC then we likely be upgraded to a Red weather alert area) so we will be monitoring the Met Office advice and updates
<b>Identification of those at risk:</b>	Teachers, support staff, volunteers, visitors, parents and pupils.
<b>What to expect:</b>	<p>Amber Extreme Heat Area (Met office advice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Population-wide adverse health effects are likely to be experienced, not limited to those most vulnerable to extreme heat, leading to potential serious illness or danger to life. Government advice is that 999 services should be used in emergencies only; seek advice from 111 if you need non-emergency health advice</li> <li>▪ Substantial changes in working practices and daily routines likely to be required</li> <li>▪ Significantly more people are likely to visit coastal areas, lakes and rivers leading to increased risk of water safety incidents</li> <li>▪ Delays on roads and road closures are possible, along with delays and cancellations to rail and air travel, with potential for significant welfare issues for those who experience even moderate delays</li> </ul> <p>Red Extreme Heat Area (Met Office Advice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Population-wide adverse health effects experienced, not limited to those most vulnerable to extreme heat, leading to serious illness or danger to life. Government advice is that 999 services should be used in emergencies only; seek advice from 111 if you need non-emergency health advice.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Substantial changes in working practices and daily routines will be required</li> <li>▪ High risk of failure of heat-sensitive systems and equipment, potentially leading to localised loss of power and other essential services, such as water or mobile phone services</li> <li>▪ Significantly more people visiting coastal areas, lakes and rivers, leading to an increased risk of water safety incidents</li> <li>▪ Delays on roads and road closures, along with delays and cancellations to rail and air travel, with significant welfare issues for those who experience even moderate delay</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health Risks from extreme heat</b></p>	<p>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. The main risk from heat is dehydration (not having enough water in the body). If sensible precautions are taken children are unlikely to be adversely affected by hot conditions, however, teachers, assistants, school nurses and all child carers should look out for signs of heat stress, heat exhaustion and heatstroke.</p> <p><b>Heat stress</b></p> <p>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><b>Heat exhaustion</b></p> <p>Symptoms of heat exhaustion vary but include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tiredness</li> <li>• dizziness</li> <li>• headache</li> <li>• nausea</li> <li>• vomiting</li> <li>• hot, red and dry skin</li> <li>• confusion</li> </ul> <p><b>Heatstroke</b></p> <p>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"> <li>• high body temperature – a temperature of or above 40°C (104°F) is a major sign of heatstroke</li> <li>• red, hot skin and sweating that then suddenly stops</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fast heartbeat</li> <li>• fast shallow breathing</li> <li>• confusion/lack of co-ordination</li> <li>• fits</li> <li>• loss of consciousness</li> </ul>
<b>Actions to protect children suffering from heat illness</b>	<p>The following steps to reduce body temperature should be taken immediately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Move the child to as cool a room as possible and encourage them to drink cool water (such as water from a cold tap).</li> <li>2. 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.</li> <li>3. Dial 999 to request an ambulance if the person doesn't respond to the above treatment within 30 minutes</li> </ol>
<b>Our Plan</b>	<p>During this period of very hot weather, we are already taking actions to protect pupils and staff. This Plan reflects the current government guidance about actions in response to a heatwave:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heatwave Plan for England: Protecting health and reducing harm from severe heat and heatwaves (<a href="http://publishing.service.gov.uk">publishing.service.gov.uk</a>)</li> <li>• Looking after pupils and those in early years settings during heatwaves: for teachers and professionals - GOV.UK (<a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>Harm / hazards which could or has occurred to those at risk</b>	
<p>Individuals suffering heat stress due to high indoor temperatures  Individuals suffering heat stress or dehydration due to lack of air movement  Individuals suffering heat stress or dehydration due to hot classrooms or offices  Lack of awareness of how to respond to high temperatures leading to heat stress or dehydration  Strenuous work/activity leading to heat stress or dehydration  Pupil/staff susceptible to heat due to specific conditions e.g. medical condition, pregnancy etc, leading to heatstroke or dehydration</p>	
<b>What we will be doing to control those risks identified above</b>	
<p><b>Individuals suffering heat stress due to high indoor temperatures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep lights off where possible</li> <li>• Turn off electrical equipment when not in use – do not keep on standby</li> <li>• Use blinds to limit sun where possible</li> <li>• Provision of fans for use where available</li> <li>• Opening of windows first thing in the morning</li> </ul>	

**Individuals suffering heat stress or dehydration due to lack of air movement**

- Windows to be opened as school is unlocked to vent the build-up of hot air
- Windows to be open during the day (partially closed when in direct sunlight or outside air becomes hotter than the inside)
- Fans to support the movement of air (if temperature is over 35 degrees this use of metal oscillating fans should be reviewed)

**Individuals suffering heat stress or dehydration due to hot classrooms or offices**

- Fans if available and appropriate
- Windows are open early morning
- Use of blinds
- Spacing of classroom and work spaces to increase air flow and reduce crowding

**Lack of awareness of how to respond to high temperatures leading to heat stress or dehydration**

- Reminders sent to all staff, volunteers, families and carers that provide knowledge and warning signs to look out for
- Staff to regularly remind pupils to take regular fluid breaks and limit physical activities during break and lunch times
- Pupils to come to school in loose fitting clothes
- Staff dress code to be relaxed
- Staff and pupils encouraged to wear hats outdoors
- Staff and pupils encouraged to use sunscreen

**Strenuous work/activity leading to heat stress or dehydration**

- Pupils' PE activities to be adapted to be less active and moved indoors so not in direct sunlight
- Pupils' activities during break and lunch to be restricted e.g. no football on the field
- Staff activities particularly site and associate staff to be amended to ensure it does not include heavy moving or strenuous activity

**Pupil/staff susceptible to heat due to specific conditions e.g. medical condition, pregnancy etc, leading to heatstroke or dehydration heat stress or dehydration due to lack of air movement**

- Headteacher will monitor wellbeing of their staff particularly those who present with additional conditions
- Teaching and support staff will monitor all pupils, particularly those with known additional conditions
- Pupils are reminded via families to ensure sunscreen is applied before school, and they have a supply with them.
- Staff and pupils to dress appropriately and relaxed and to ensure they have a sun hat
- Staff are reminded to use sunscreen, and wear comfortable relaxed clothing [appropriate to role/activity]
- Pupils and staff reminded to bring water bottles (suggested to freeze the water overnight)

- Fresh cool water is available to staff and pupils
- Teaching staff are reminded to encourage pupils to drink during lessons more frequently.

**What else should you do to control those risks – who is responsible and when by?**

Be aware of the MET office updates. Headteacher to monitor carefully for the Monday and Tuesday  
If we feel a child is not coping in the heat we will send them home.

**What is the level of risk after all controls possible have been put in place?  
(HIGH/MED/LOW)**

Medium – as a school we have put in place all appropriate measures

**Is this a safeguarding risk – if so, please describe:**

No

**Additional notes as required:**

Risk assessment will be reviewed if the MET Office warning goes to Red.

**This risk assessment will be communicated to – and how – and when:**

All staff  
Risk Assessments will be shared with staff via OneDrive  
This risk assessment will be shared with CoG  
Will be available to parents

**Risk Assessment signed off by (job title / name and signature):**

Claire Ratley  
Headteacher

**Date of assessment sign off:**

18/7/22