FULLBROOK
HOT WEATHER RISK ASSESSMENT

Period Covered: Tuesday 23rd June 2026 to Thursday 25th June 2026
Completed by: Mr D. Cartwright, Premises Manager and Miss A. Wallis, Principal
Review Date: Daily during heat event

Background
The Met Office has issued an Amber Weather Warning for extreme heat covering Tuesday to Thursday of this week.

The Trust has advised that schools should remain open wherever possible, whilst recognising that individual schools will face different challenges and that adjustments may vary between schools. Schools have been directed to complete a full risk assessment and implement measures necessary to ensure the health, safety and safeguarding of students and staff.

Fullbrook occupies a largely traditional school estate with a number of older buildings characterised by significant solar gain, limited mechanical ventilation and substantial thermal mass. Experience from previous heat events demonstrates that these buildings retain heat over prolonged periods, resulting in internal temperatures continuing to rise throughout the afternoon and remaining elevated into subsequent days.

Following consideration of all available mitigations, the school has concluded that, whilst it remains safe and appropriate to operate during the morning period, the residual risk associated with afternoon occupation between Tuesday and Thursday cannot be reduced to an acceptable level.

Accordingly, the school day will conclude at 1:20pm on these days, with supervised provision remaining available for vulnerable students where required.

Existing Control Measures Already Implemented
The school has already implemented a comprehensive range of mitigation measures in advance of the forecast heat event.

These include:

- Agreement that all students may wear full PE kit throughout the week to maximise comfort and reduce heat stress;
- Relaxation of expectations regarding additional layers and formal uniform requirements;
- Communication to all families and staff regarding hydration, sunscreen, hats and appropriate clothing;
- Social media communications issued on school platforms reiterating heat safety advice;
- Instructions to all students and staff to bring water bottles with a minimum capacity of 2 litres;
- Hydration opportunities throughout the school day
- Blinds to remain closed where appropriate to reduce solar gain;
- Classrooms to be ventilated whenever external conditions permit;
- Curriculum adaptations, including cessation of strenuous physical activity and modification or cancellation of outdoor activities where necessary;
- Ongoing monitoring of vulnerable students and staff;
- Daily review of weather forecasts and site conditions by the Leadership Team.

The following message was issued to all families on 21st June:
'As you will be aware, the week ahead, especially from Tuesday to Thursday, is forecast to be very warm. Please remember that PE kit this week is to be worn so as to keep you comfortable and please also note the guidance below:
- Bring a full water bottle, at least 2 litres in capacity and refill at break and lunchtime, not during lessons;
- Apply high factor sunscreen before school and bring some to reapply if needed;
- Consider a hat for break and lunchtime;
- Wear proper and approved school PE kit.

Staying hydrated and protected from the sun will help students and staff stay safe, comfortable and ready to learn.

I will keep a close eye on the forecast during the day tomorrow and if we do need to make any further adaptations to the school week, I will let you know in a timely fashion.'

This communication was reinforced through social media channels to ensure that all stakeholders were aware of the risks and expected precautions.

Site Specific Risk Factors
Despite the mitigations listed above, Fullbrook faces significant site specific challenges:

1. Building Thermal Mass and Residual Heat
Many areas of the school are housed within older buildings constructed from brick and concrete. These materials possess high thermal mass. Basic principles of physics demonstrate that materials with high thermal mass absorb and store large quantities of heat energy during periods of prolonged solar exposure. The heat absorbed by the structure is then slowly released back into occupied spaces over many hours.

This process means that:
- Internal temperatures continue to rise even after external temperatures have stabilised;
- Classroom temperatures often peak later than outside temperatures;
- Buildings do not cool significantly overnight during prolonged heat events, particularly where overnight temperatures remain elevated;
- Each successive hot day results in cumulative heat build up within the structure.

Consequently, temperatures experienced on Wednesday and Thursday are likely to exceed those experienced on Tuesday, even if external air temperatures remain constant.

2. Peak Heat Occurring During the Afternoon
Meteorological data routinely demonstrates that the hottest period of the day typically occurs between approximately 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm. Furthermore, due to thermal lag, indoor temperatures in school buildings frequently peak later still.

As a result, the period from lunchtime onwards represents the highest risk period for:
- Heat exhaustion;
- Heat stress;
- Dehydration;
- Reduced concentration and cognitive performance;
- Exacerbation of existing medical conditions;

- Behavioural dysregulation, notably for our Loft students;
- Safeguarding concerns arising from illness or distress.

The school's experience during previous heat events confirms that afternoon learning conditions deteriorate significantly and become increasingly unsuitable for effective learning and teaching.

3. Limited Capacity to Relocate Students
Whilst some movement between classrooms is possible, the school does not possess sufficient cooler spaces to relocate the entire student body away from upper floors, south facing rooms or areas subject to significant solar gain. The number of cooler teaching spaces is insufficient to provide a safe and sustainable solution during an extended three day heat event.

Risk Assessment

Hazard	**Persons at Risk**	**Existing Controls**	**Residual Risk if School Operates Full Day**	**Further Action**
Excessive classroom temperatures causing heat-related illness	Students, staff, visitors	All mitigations listed above	High	School day ends at lunchtime Tuesday-Thursday
Cumulative heat build-up within buildings	Students and staff	Ventilation, blinds, hydration	High	Afternoon occupation ceased
Dehydration and heat exhaustion	Students and staff	Water, PE kit, sunscreen, monitoring	Medium/High	Minimise exposure during hottest period
Increased risk to vulnerable individuals	Vulnerable students and staff	Individual support plans	High	Reduce occupancy during peak heat period
Inability to maintain effective teaching and learning	Students and staff	Adapted curriculum	High	Remote learning provided in afternoons

Conclusion
Having implemented all reasonably practicable control measures, the school has determined that the residual risk associated with continued occupation of the site during the afternoon period between Tuesday and Thursday remains unacceptably high.

The combination of:
- an Amber and Red weather warning;
- prolonged multi day heat exposure;
- cumulative residual heat within the building fabric;
- anticipated peak internal temperatures during the afternoon;
- limited availability of cooler teaching spaces; and
- the need to safeguard both students and staff,

means that the only proportionate and reasonably practicable additional control measure available is to cease on site operation at lunchtime during the period Tuesday to Thursday.

This approach enables the school to:

- maintain face to face education during the cooler morning period;
- significantly reduce exposure to the highest risk period of the day;
- safeguard vulnerable students and staff; and
- discharge its statutory duties under health and safety and safeguarding legislation.

As such, the school will close to the majority of students at lunchtime on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Authorised by

Miss A Wallis
Principal

Date 22/06/26

Mr D Cartwright
Premise Manager

Date 22/06/26