



Royal College  
of Physicians

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## Children and Young People Committee

SSPP08

### Inquiry into school sun protection policy

Evidence from Royal College of Physicians

Committee Clerk  
Children and Young People Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

**From The Registrar**  
Patrick Cadigan MD FRCP  
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By email  
[CYPCommittee@wales.gov.uk](mailto:CYPCommittee@wales.gov.uk)

8 March 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

**Re: Inquiry into school sun protection policy**

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) plays a leading role in the delivery of high quality patient care by setting standards of medical practice and promoting clinical excellence. We provide physicians in the United Kingdom and overseas with education, training and support throughout their careers. As an independent body representing over 25,000 Fellows and Members worldwide, we advise and work with government, the public, patients and other professions to improve health and healthcare.

The RCP is grateful for the opportunity to respond to the above inquiry. In so doing, we have had sight of and would wish to endorse the response submitted by the Dermatology Council of Wales (DCW) a sub-committee of the British Association of Dermatologists. Overall, we welcome the petition as it raises the issue of sun protection for children, and skin cancer prevention. However, our fellows and members are not convinced that providing free sunscreen would provide the best use of resources. We believe that the encouragement of sun exposure behavioural changes, the provision of shade and the encouragement of wearing appropriate sun protection clothing should be emphasised in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Dr Patrick Cadigan  
Registrar