



# Sun Safety

Dear Parents/Carers

It is at this time of year that sun safety becomes a necessity in order to protect our children against the harmful rays from the sun.



In the past, some parents have asked if sun cream can be applied to children during the school day and whilst we appreciate the need for sun safety this is putting huge responsibility on staff to apply cream to what could be thirty plus children each day. There is also the issue for those children who suffer with skin allergies and are not allowed to have certain types of sun cream applied. I hope parents appreciate the difficulties involved.

Our policy for Sun Safety and Procedures states that sunscreen is, in fact, 'added protection' which 'may be useful when other measures are not available.' The 'other measures' are listed as follows:

- Seeking shade, particularly during the middle of the day
- Wearing suitable hats
- Wearing clothing that protects the skin, particularly for outdoor activities and school trips

I wanted to reassure parents that staff are extremely careful regarding protection against too much sun. We believe that when a high factor sunscreen is applied by parents in the morning added to the above measures there is very little risk to children.

Children spend a maximum of 20 minutes during morning play. During lunchtime the maximum time they spend outside is 30 minutes. During very warm, sunny weather children are always encouraged to seek shade.

For Reception children continuous outdoor provision has to be monitored carefully. During the morning, the reception playground is completely in the shade. At lunchtime the children spend a maximum of 15 minutes on the main playground before being taken back to their reception area by their welfare assistant where there is more shade. In the afternoon staff are extremely careful to ensure that children's time in the sun is monitored. The canopy offers staff and children much needed protection whilst still giving children the opportunity to stay outdoors.

As part of our policy we will be encouraging children to avoid sunburn and overexposure to the sun by the measures listed above but we need your support with this. In extreme cases, where children are particularly fair skinned and parents are concerned about sun exposure, a sunscreen can be sent into school. Your child's name **must** be marked on the container, otherwise your child will not be allowed to apply the sunscreen.

For children in Reception Class and Key Stage 1 children, where parents/carers have made a written request for their child to use sunscreen, staff will encourage your child to apply the cream themselves, with support when necessary. (Attached is a return slip which may be used by parents/carers when requesting use of sunscreen in school)

For children in Years 3 to 6, responsibility to apply the sunscreen will be with the child. Again, written request must be received from the parent/carer before any child is allowed to use sunscreen in school.

In warmer weather children also need access to water throughout the day, with this in mind could you please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school each day. Please ensure your child's name is on their bottle.

We hope this information is useful and thank you for your support with measures detailed.

If any parent has any queries then please do contact the school.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs L McEvoy



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I am requesting that my child \_\_\_\_\_ in Year \_\_\_\_\_ is allowed to apply sunscreen during the day.

I will ensure that my child brings sunscreen which is labelled with my child's full name and class.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_