Sun Protection Policy

Policy Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all children are protected from the harmful effects of the sun and are offered suitable protection at all times. Outdoor play is an essential aspect of young children's learning and development and we want all children and staff to enjoy spending time outside safely without the risk of the harmful effects of the sun by:

- ensuring children have access to shade throughout the day
- ensuring children wear appropriate clothing, including a brimmed hat, during the months March to October.
- ensuring children have access to drinking water and keep hydrated
- working with parents, children and staff to achieve protection from the sun
- encouraging lifelong learning in respect of personal health and the sun.

Procedures

Staff

- Staff provide protective care for themselves and children whilst in the sun, especially over the sunnier months, between March and October.
- As the warmer weather approaches staff explain to children about the need to keep safe in the sun and how to do this.
- Staff take particular care when children are outside during the hottest part of the day between 11am and 3pm. During this period it is the responsibility of each individual member of staff to ensure that children:
    - wear the hats provided,
    - wear clothing covering shoulders, arms and back and enclosed shoes,
    - only be outside for limited periods when it is sunny,
    - are encouraged to play in shady areas outside,
    - are encouraged to drink water regularly.
- Staff provide shady areas during outdoor play area.
- Staff **do not** apply sunscreen to children.

Parents

- Parents are informed about the policy and encouraged to keep their children safe in the sun through:
    - reading the policy on sun safety,
    - informal discussions during initial meetings,
    - applying sunscreen to children before drop-off
    - supplying appropriate clothes/hats/enclosed footwear and sunglasses if additional eye protection is required.
- During the hotter weather children should be dressed in loose clothing that is of a close weave fabric and for outdoor play have shoulders, arms and backs covered. If parents do not provide suitable clothing then staff will contact them to ask for some to be brought in.
- Parents must provide a named sunhat preferably a comfortable, wide brimmed hat or legionnaire style cap which protects the face, neck and eyes. If possible, the hat should be left at the setting. If additional eye protection is required, then sunglasses with UV filters can be provided.
- Parents may return to the setting to re-apply sunscreen during the session.