

27. Suncare Policy

Statement of intent

The Pre-School want staff and children to enjoy the sun safely. We follow the advice given by 'Sun Smart' Cancer Research UK. We work with staff, parents and the children to achieve this.

Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK and the number of cases is rising at an alarming rate. The good news is that the majority of these cases could be prevented. Most skin cancers are caused by UV radiation from the sun. If we protect ourselves from the sun then we can reduce our risk. This is particularly important for children and young people whose skin is more delicate and easily damaged.

Sunburn in childhood may double your risk of skin cancer. You will not see the damage immediately because skin cancer can take years to develop. But children who are exposed to the sun are now storing up problems for the future.

What is the Sun Smart Campaign?

Sun Smart is the national skin cancer prevention campaign run by Cancer Research UK. The Sun Smart Schools Initiative encourages Pre-Schools like ours to develop and adopt sun protection policies. They are part of a broader campaign communicating effective skin cancer prevention messages to the general public.

The five key Sun Smart skin cancer prevention messages are:

- S Stay in the shade 11-3
- M Make sure you never burn
- A Always cover up wear a t-shirt, wide brimmed hat and wraparound sunglasses
- R Remember children burn more easily
- T Then always use factor 15 plus sunscreen

Young children have sensitive skin that can be easily damaged by the sun's dangerous UV rays. Children in our care may spend a lot of their time outdoors during the summer months. At this young age they are unable to take responsibility for their own sun protection. So carers have a responsibility to ensure that children are protected from the harmful effects of the sun. Your child's health and wellbeing are very important to us.

Methods

- We will provide an environment that enables children and staff to stay safe in the sun
- Through activities and daily routines we will reinforce the sun protection messages to staff and the children
- We will work with parents providing information on sun safety
- We will keep ourselves updated through Cancer Research UK
- We will spend more time playing outside before 11.00am in the summer term
- We will provide areas of shade whilst outside

Clothing/Sunscreen

- We will actively encourage all children to wear a hat when playing outside
- We have bought some wide brimmed hats to offer to children who forget their own

- Staff wear hats when outside to set a good example
- We will ask parents to supply sunscreen factor 20 plus and a wide brimmed hat for their child that is clearly labelled with their name
- We obtain written consent from parents for staff to apply the sun screen they have provided for their child
- We encourage parents to apply sunscreen before the children arrive.
- If staff have become aware of any reactions/intolerances to suncare products they will notify parents/carers as soon as possible.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Walton Under Fives Pre-School held May 2011. It was then reviewed and adopted at a meeting in November 2017.

Signed (Pre School Leader) Date

Signed (Committee Chair) Date