



## Policy for Sun Protection

**Sunsmart** is the national skin cancer prevention campaign run by Cancer Research UK. They are part of a broader campaign communicating effective skin cancer prevention messages to the general public.

The five key **Sunsmart** skin cancer prevention messages are:

1. Stay in the shade 11-3
2. Make sure you never burn
3. Always cover up - wear a t-shirt, hat and wraparound sunglasses
4. Remember children burn more easily
5. Then use factor 15+ sunscreen

As a school staff we will:

- Minimise the risks by limiting the amount of time that pupils are required to spend exposed to the sun.
- Consider the timing of events; the sun's harmful rays are most intense between midday and early afternoon
- When it is very hot, keep children out of the sun altogether
- Encourage children to make use of all available shade provided by buildings, trees etc
- Encourage parents to send their children to school with a suitable broad brimmed hat which provides head, face and neck protection from the sun. If a child has particularly sensitive skin then they can wear leggings, arm sleeves or a T Shirt / vest underneath a V neck top to minimise skin exposure to the sun.
- Allow pupils to wear sunglasses, bearing in mind, that for safety reasons, eyewear might be inappropriate for certain activities, particularly physical education
- Encourage pupils to wear loose fitting clothing whenever they are not participating in physical activities
- Encourage parents to apply suncream prior to school and provide appropriate, labelled sunscreen protection for their child. Guidance from Cancer research UK recommends a minimum of SPF 15 and 4 stars.
- Encourage children to apply additional suncream where appropriate
- Encourage children to drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration

Sunscreen products are not classed as medicine. However the implications for sunscreen use in school are analogous to that of medicines. Teachers and other support staff are not legally obliged to administer sunscreen and the support and cooperation of parents is essential.

School staff do not apply suncream to children as this is a safeguarding issue. Teachers can be left open to allegations of abuse, causing allergic reactions or complaints that the suncream was not adequately applied. Staff may also have allergic reactions to the various suncreams which parents provide.

Pupils are encouraged to apply their own suncream. The teaching of how to apply suncream starts in our Nursery but parents are also encouraged to support their children with how to apply the suncream. If a child has a significant need e.g. physical limitations and requires an adult to assist the application of suncream; this will only be applied to the face, neck and arms.