



SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Little Willows Pre-School is committed to ensuring that all children and staff are protected from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. Excessive sun exposure in childhood increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. As a setting, we actively promote safe sun behaviours, particularly between March and October, and especially 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. when UV rays are strongest.

Aims of this policy

- To educate children, staff, and parents about sun safety.
- To reduce the risk of sunburn, skin damage and long-term skin cancer.
- To ensure children are safe and comfortable while enjoying the outdoors.
- To promote good hydration and sun-safe practices.

Education and Awareness

- Staff discuss sun safety with the children.
- Staff receive training and reminders of the importance of sun protection for themselves and for the children in their care. Staff act as positive role models e.g. wearing hats and appropriate clothing, regularly applying sunshade, seeking shade when possible and encouraging the children to keep hydrated.
- Parents and carers are informed of the pre-school sun safety expectations in the pre-school handbook and reminders will be posted on the pre-school 'Padlet'. This policy will also be available on the pre-school website.
- During high UV periods, children are encouraged to play in shaded areas and staff rotate activities to avoid prolonged direct sun exposure.

Clothing and hydration

- Children should wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that covers the shoulders.
- **Sun hats** with wide brims or neck flaps are encouraged. Parents/Carers are responsible for providing these. The pre-school carries a stock of legionnaire caps available for purchase.
- Staff are encouraged to wear sun protective clothing and hats to model good practice.
- Children are encouraged to drink more water in hot weather.
- Fresh drinking water is always accessible indoors (and outdoors in hot weather) via child-accessible dispensers.

Sunscreen

Parents & Carers must supply an in-date bottle of sunscreen which:-

- Must be minimum SPF30 and have a 5-star UVA rating
- Must be clearly labelled with the child's name
- Should be suitable for sensitive skin
- Should be kept in the pre-school for the summer term

Application Procedures:-

Children attending for a session: Sunscreen should **be applied at home** before arrival.

Children attending full-day sessions: Sunscreen should **be applied at home** in the morning.
Staff will **support children to reapply sunscreen** as needed in the afternoon.

Written parental consent for staff to apply sunscreen is required (this will be obtained when a place is offered to a child).

Staff will wear disposable gloves or use pump applicators where appropriate to maintain hygiene.

Sunscreen will not be shared between children due to allergy and hygiene risk.

