



# Lea CE Primary School & Gateway Lodge Nursery



## Sun Protection Policy for Early Years Foundation Stage Pupils

### POLICY RATIONALE

Whilst we recognise that some sun is good for us, over-exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (UVR) is an important safeguarding issue for pre-school settings. During the warmer months of the year, children are exposed to UVR from the sun, often when penetration is at its strongest (between 11am and 3pm).

Without adequate protection, a child's delicate skin can easily burn, causing cumulative and irreparable damage. This can significantly increase their risk of developing skin cancer in later life. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the UK with rates of the disease rising faster than any other cancer. 86% of skin cancers are caused by over-exposure to UVR, so it is almost entirely preventable.

Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to a person's lifetime risk of skin cancer, highlighting the importance of pre-school settings and parents working together, to increase knowledge and influence behaviours, to ensure children are protected against UVR and learn how to enjoy the sun safely.

This policy outlines our commitment to:

**PROTECTION:** providing an environment that enables children and staff to stay safe in the sun.

**EDUCATION:** learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour.

**COLLABORATION:** working with parents, the management structure and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety

### CLOTHING & SUN HATS | RATIONALE & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS

Clothing is one of the most effective barriers between our skin and the sun and should always be considered the first line of defence against UV exposure.

Ideally clothing should cover as much skin as possible. Shoulders should always be covered as they can easily burn. A closer weave fabric will provide better protection and a UPF (ultraviolet protection factor) rated fabric will provide best protection.

- ✓ We actively remind parents to ensure they provide an appropriate sun hat for use as required throughout the day.
- ✓ We make available additional/spare sun hats for all outdoor play / activities, in the event that a parent is unable to provide one.
- ✓ We ensure children wear their sun hat outdoors when UV levels reach 3 or above.
- ✓ We actively encourage parents to ensure children are dressed in suitable clothing and that shoulders are covered during warmer months.



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## SUNSCREEN | RATIONALE & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS

Sunscreen should be applied to areas of exposed skin that are not covered by clothing to protect it from Ultraviolet Radiation. Without adequate protection, a child's delicate skin can easily burn, causing cumulative and irreparable damage. This can significantly increase their risk of developing skin cancer in later life.

It is recommended that all sunscreen provided by both parents and pre-school settings should be:

- A minimum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30.
- Labelled 'Broad-Spectrum' to provide both UVA and UVB protection and labelled with a UVA symbol (minimum 4 stars).
- Applied generously to exposed skin 20 minutes before going outdoors when UV levels reach 3 or above.

ALL sunscreens should be reapplied at least every 2 hours and more often if sweating/towelling

Sunscreen should be stored in a cool, dry, accessible place.

Remember to check expiry dates as sunscreen becomes less effective over time. If an expiration date is not displayed, look for an open jar symbol which will have a number next to it (i.e. 9M or 12M) - that's the number of months you can safely use the sunscreen after opening.

- ✓ We actively remind parents to provide a quality sunscreen for application during the day as required.
- ✓ We make available additional/spare sunscreen for all outdoor activities, in the event a parent is unable to provide their own.
- ✓ This sunscreen is available for parents to patch test upon request.
- ✓ We ensure sunscreen is applied when UV levels reach 3 or above, before periods of outdoor play / activities and reapplied at least every 2 hours when required.

## SHADE

- ✓ We currently provide shaded areas outdoors where children can congregate for outdoor play and activities.
- ✓ We conduct shade assessments to consider future needs and are committed to improving shade solutions where necessary.
- ✓ We encourage children to play in the shade as much as possible when UV levels reach 3 or above, particularly between peak UV hours (11am-3pm).
- ✓ Babies are always kept in the shade where possible.
- ✓ We monitor and limit time children spend outdoors according to UV levels and during peak UV hours (11am - 3pm)



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## STAFF & ROLE-MODELLING

- ✓ We ensure all staff role model good sun safety behaviours such as applying sunscreen and wearing a sun hat when UV levels reach 3 or above.
- ✓ We are committed to ensuring all staff are actively involved in the implementation of this policy and that they consider the UV forecast and sun protection/ control measures when planning outdoor play or activities.

## SUN SAFETY EDUCATION

- ✓ We are committed to educating children on the importance of sun safety and regularly reinforcing this during warmer months to influence behaviours and embed key messaging.

## REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

**Next Review Date: July 2027**