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Learning in partnership

Sun Protection Policy (Website)

Our policy with sunscreen at school is to ask parents to use a long lasting sunscreen in the mornings. Many schools follow this policy, but for some children it may not be appropriate or effective enough.

Allowing the children to bring sunscreen to school creates both difficulties and dangers. These include the following issues:

- staff cannot apply sunscreen to children
- young children would have difficulty applying it to themselves correctly
- sunscreen must be stored away from children
- time must be found for the children to apply it
- staff need to be available to hand sunscreen out
- many sunscreens clearly state 'Keep out of reach of children' and have potentially harmful effects if used incorrectly

These problems and dangers need to be balanced against the need for sun safety and the alternative arrangements that can be made.

In the interests of supporting those parents, carers and children who feel that further sunscreen protection is needed, for the rest of the summer term a supply of sunscreen can be sent to school for your child if you wish to do so. That named sunscreen will be kept out of reach in classrooms and will be available on sunny days as the children leave the classroom to go out for lunch. The children will have a short time to apply their sunscreen, before it is returned to a safer place. It is assumed that sunscreen will be applied at home to cover the morning session. If necessary, the children would also be able to apply sunscreen as they go out to play in the afternoon. The application of the sunscreen can only be done by your children, so if you do wish them to do this, you must make sure that they know what to do, where to put it and how much to use. Staff will not be able to supervise individual children. Sunscreen must also be clearly labelled with your child's name and sunscreen cannot be shared with other children. Only 'rub on' sunscreen cream is acceptable, since the spray versions and lotions are not suitable for use by children in school.

Please remember that sunscreen is a last line of defence with hats and sunglasses if needed. Sunglasses may be sent to be worn at playtimes, but must not be taken into classrooms and the school will accept no responsibility for lost or broken sunglasses or injuries as a result of wearing sunglasses.

Having sunscreen at school and allowing the children to self-administer it does not fit in with parts of the school's general health and safety policies. The school is recommending the alternatives of long lasting sunscreen and reapplying it at lunchtime. Therefore the responsibility for having the sunscreen at school will lie with parents and carers.