Sun Protection Policy

Rational

Too much exposure to ultraviolet light (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer. There is potential for preschools to help prevent skin cancer in future generations because:

• We can play a significant role in changing behaviours through role modelling and education from an early age.  
• Children and staff are at risk of sunburn within 10-15 minutes of being exposed to strong sunlight.  
• Skin cancer is largely preventable through behaviour modification and sun protection during early years.

Aims

Our aim of this policy is to actively promote sun safety at preschool, with children, parents and staff. We endeavour to provide an environment that enables children and staff to stay safe in the sun.

Partnership:

At South Milford Preschool we work with parents/guardians, pre-school staff and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy nursery. This is done through newsletters; notices; emails and staff reminders.

Education:

At South Milford Preschool we will teach the children about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour. All children will be involved in discussions, appropriate for their age and understanding, increasing children’s understanding of how to keep safe in the sun.

Protection:

Parents are requested to bring their children to preschool with suncream already applied. Staff will ask parents if this has been done, and if not, pre-school will provide sun cream for the parents to administer. Suncream (at least factor 30) will only be administered by staff to children who are staying all day. The suncream will be reapplied at lunchtime. Parental permission for this is on the registration forms.

We request that the children wear sun hats on sunny days, and we provide spares for children that have not brought one from home. Children are also encouraged to play in the shady areas of the garden. If needed, temporary shade will be provided with gazebos, umbrellas and parachutes.

Drinking Water:

Children are encouraged to increase their water intake in hot weather and are encouraged to drink water during outdoor play times.

Policy written July 2023 - M Riches