



Milford Infants' School Sun Protection Policy

Date: September 2025

Signed: *W. Chant*

Review date: September 2028

At Milford Infants' School we acknowledge the importance of sun protection and want staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely. We will work with staff, pupils and parents to achieve this through: -

EDUCATION

- All pupils will have at least one lesson on sun safety per year as part of their health education.
- We will talk about how to be safe in the sun in seasonal assemblies
- We will continue to develop and use resources concerning sun protection.

PROTECTION – through an ongoing risk assessment

Shade

- Having carried out a shade audit we will endeavour to increase the amount of shade for pupils and parents to use while maintaining sufficient safe space for the children to play and receive sports tuition.
- When the sun is strong, we will encourage pupils to sit/play in the shade where it is available
- When the sun is strong, we will reduce the amount of time the children are outside at play.

Clothing

- Children should bring sunhats to school to wear at playtimes and during outdoor PE lessons in the summer term
- Children may bring sunglasses to school to be worn outdoors on bright days
- Children should wear t-shirts which cover their shoulders or long sleeves for P.E. lessons and playtimes
- Ports tops should not include vest tops
- School staff are encouraged to lead by example with regards to sun safety by wearing appropriate clothing, protective hats, sunscreen and sunglasses while outside. They should also be encouraged to seek shade wherever possible.

Sunscreen:

- Sunscreen use will be encouraged on school trips, for outdoor P.E. lessons and playtimes.
- We will send letters home asking permission for children to apply their own sunscreen during the summer months.
- Children are expected to bring their own sunscreen and apply it themselves unless they are in the pre-school which has its own sunscreen and will support the children with application.
- Children may only use their own sunscreen (except for pre-school children)

- Teachers and other school staff (except pre-school staff) will not apply sunscreen to any children.
- Parents are asked to teach their children how to sensibly use and apply these sunscreens and will clearly label them in their child's bag for their own use.

Advice for school staff on pupil's application of Sunscreen

Under the terms and conditions of their contracts, teachers are not required to administer medicines. There is however no legislation that prevents teachers and support staff from administering sunscreens where other controls cannot provide protection, but this would be on a purely voluntary basis. Teachers will use their professional judgement to decide whether they volunteer to administer medication or sunscreen.

Where, through risk assessment, it has been decided that all other control measures such as limiting exposure and use of shade, are either inadequate or unavailable and the use of sunscreen to provide protection cannot be avoided, the following advice must be considered:

- The protective effect of sunscreen products is reduced over time, as the sunscreen is absorbed and /or rubbed off
- Sunscreen applied before school, generally, provides insufficient protection for a whole day, unless specific long-life creams have been used
- Most children will be able, with some direction, to apply sunscreens themselves, self-application is recommended. This prevents allegations of abuse and encroachment into learning time.
- Dermatologists recommend that a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or above, and capable of protecting against UVA and UVB spectra, will provide children in this country with adequate protection.
- Sunscreens should not be used to prolong the amount of time spent in the sun but as a form of protection when other measures are unavailable or impractical, or when additional protection is required.

At school this would include:

- Outdoor breaks, particularly lunch breaks
- PE or other outdoor lessons
- Sports days
- Educational visits.

Where the decision has been made to use sunscreen as a control measure, it will be necessary to ensure that they are applied correctly: teachers need to advise pupils to:

- Use about a dessert spoon of 15+ sunscreen to head, arms and neck.
- Spread it evenly over the exposed areas of the body with particular attention to those areas that burn easily, such as ears and neck.