**St John’s Catholic Primary School – Foundation Stage Unit**

**Sun Protection Policy**

**Aim**

**We are aware of the importance of sun protection and want all of our staff and children to be able to enjoy the sun safely.**

We aim to work closely with parents and staff to achieve this. The need for sun protection in hot weather is discussed with the children and parents/carers are reminded of our sun policy during the Summer Term or in the case of particularly hot weather. Reminder letters and notices are displayed in the parents’ area and sent home to all parents of children within the Foundation Stage. Sun protection is considered when planning all outside activities from April until September.

**Safety in our Outdoor Areas**

Our main play area provides areas of shade for the children to play under. These include parachutes, cargo netting, material cloths, pop up tents and a roofed area. Gazebos are used in cases of extreme hot weather and direct sunshine. Activities under shaded areas are planned daily for all children during the hottest times of the day and children are restricted to shaded areas during these hottest times ( between 12 noon and 2pm).

**Expectations for Sun Safety**

**Parents are asked to provide children with a suitable sun hat with protection which covers the back of the neck,** which they are actively encouraged to wear when they play outside. Some spare sunhats are available within the Foundation Stage Unit and can be given to children who do not bring in their own sunhat. Children are encouraged to leave sunhats in school for daily use. **Children need to come into school dressed appropriately for the hottest weather,** with their back, neck and shoulders covered by clothing. Staff model sun protection routines, including wearing a sun cream alongside the children.

Fresh drinking water is available throughout the day and children are encouraged to drink regularly.

As outdoor play is part of our daily routine, it is necessary **that children have their sun cream applied prior to coming into the setting**, by their parent or carer. Reminders of this are sent to parents (via Email/text or letter during the Summer Term).

Children that stay all day should have their own named sun cream that can be kept in the setting for re-application at lunchtime.

All children will be encouraged to apply the sun cream themselves but will be supported by the staff. A letter requesting parent permission to help children re-apply their sun cream is sent home routinely at the beginning of each Summer Term. Permission slips are recorded and a main list of children who staff can help to apply sun cream is held in the Foundation Stage Unit.

Foundation Stage staff will keep a bottle of Factor 40 sun cream for use when a child has arrived without sun cream being applied, or if a child does not have their own named sun cream in the setting. **This can only be administered with prior written consent from parents.** A list of parents who consent to their child wearing sun cream supplied is displayed in the Foundation Stage Unit. Parent consent is held on the child’s file.

Children whose parents/carers do not provide consent for the re-application of sun cream or do not come into the setting with sun cream on will be given limited outside play experiences, in order to safeguard and protect the child. Whilst in the setting, staff act as ‘Loco-parentis’ for the children and consider sun safety as a key area of their welfare and safeguarding policy. During the hottest parts of the day children with no sun protection will only be able to access the shaded areas of the playground or outside area. If a child is thought not to have had sun cream applied and there is no permission from parents to apply sun cream, staff will air on the side of caution and limit the amount of time that the child spends in the sun to 10-20 minutes (depending on the temperatures and the time of day)

**Lunchtimes**

Children within the preschool always eat their packed lunches indoors so, that they are not exposed to the sun for long periods of time when they are out of the setting. For Reception class children, Meal Time Assistants ensure lunches are eaten and activities are set up within the shaded areas of the school playground and field. Children have water bottles with them during the lunchtime period. All children are encouraged to wear their sunhats during the lunchtime period and Meal Time Assistants monitor this closely. The children are actively encouraged to play under the shaded areas for a part of their lunchtime (e.g. story time under the large tree shaded areas).

**Outdoor Visits/Trips/ School Occasions**

During trips away from Foundation Stage Unit, all staff will ensure that same sun protection procedures apply. Children wear sunhats and staff will ensure that shaded areas are provided, including a room away from the sun to eat in. Fresh drinking water is always carried by member of staff is away from school/preschool.

**Effects of the Sun**

We follow a set procedure, should a child display signs of heat/sun stroke.

1. Children are taken to a cool shaded area or inside and given a cool drink of water.
2. Children are monitored and given a calm activity to participate in. they are given cool, fresh clothing if needed.
3. Children who display signs of heat/sun stroke are not given access to the outdoor area again for the duration of their time in the setting that day and parents/carers are informed on collection.

Parents/carers are informed and the child is sent home if they complain of headaches or nausea following exposure to the sun. Parents are encouraged to seek GP advice if their child shows signs of sun/heatstroke and staff actively speak to parents about this.

(Policy devised, based around sample policy provided from Devon Childcare services and Devon LEA- April 2013)

Signed ­­­ C L Webber

Mrs Claire Webber - Early Years Leader

Date for Review – September 2022