



BALLYMENA NURSERY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR SUN SAFETY

Nursery Principles

In Ballymena Nursery, the staff are aware of the need to ensure that the children are safe in the outdoor environment. This includes paying attention to safety in the sun. We aim to raise awareness of the need for sun protection and to encourage parents and children to adopt responsible behaviours while in the sun.

Guiding Principles

This policy has been written, using information received from the Regional Care in the Sun Group for N. Ireland. It is widely recognised that young children have very sun-sensitive skin and that prolonged exposure and sunburn in childhood can result in damage that cannot be repaired.

Statement of Intent

The nursery team will educate children and inform parents of the ill effects of over exposure to the sun and of preventative action that can be taken to avoid sun burn, so that children and staff may use the outdoor area safely and effectively.

Procedures

- In the third term, teachers will plan to teach the children, through the use of Percy the Pig and Dora the Duck puppets and stories. They will learn about the ill-effects of excessive exposure to the sun and about ways of keeping safe and healthy in the sun.

- Parents will receive information in the newsletter and on notice boards, concerning safety in the sun and what they can do to protect their children.
- Staff will place toys in the shade when possible and create shaded areas with portable sun umbrellas/pop-up play tents etc.
- All children will be encouraged to wear a sun-hat.
- Parents will be asked to apply sun cream (factor 30+) to their children's skin **before** bringing them to nursery.
- Parents will be encouraged to dress their children in clothing which will give the greatest protection against sun exposure. The nursery uniform will allow for adequate protection (high collar t-shirt, jogging bottoms or sun dress, sweatshirt or cardigan to cover arms).
- All staff will be encouraged to wear suitable clothing which will protect against sun exposure and a sun hat in order to set an example to the children.
- If a child does not have a sun hat or if sun cream has not been applied by parents, they will be encouraged to take breaks from the sun by playing in the designated indoor room for short periods.
- Drinking water will be available at all times, both indoors and outdoors.

This policy has been presented to and accepted by the Board of *Governors*.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____