

WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEDGEHOGS NURSERY & SUNBEAMS CLUB



Sun Cream Policy



Updated: September 2026
Review Date: September 2027

Introduction

Woodlands Primary School is committed to protecting children from the harmful effects of the sun and supporting their health and wellbeing during warm and sunny weather.

We recognise that young children are particularly vulnerable to sunburn, dehydration and overheating. This policy sets out the measures we take to keep children safe while enjoying outdoor play and activities.

Sun Safety

All children should **arrive at school each day with sun cream already applied by their parent/carer** when sunny or warm weather is expected.

Practitioners will **closely monitor the weather conditions, temperature, UV index and UVA forecast** throughout the day to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to keep children safe and provide suitable protection from the sun.

Staff will:

- Monitor weather conditions, temperature, UV levels and UVA forecasts and respond appropriately to changing conditions.
- Encourage children to play in shaded areas, particularly during periods of strong sunshine or high UV levels.
- Provide access to shaded areas wherever possible.
- Encourage children to wear appropriate clothing, including sun hats.
- Ensure children have access to drinking water throughout the day and encourage regular drinking.
- Monitor children for signs of overheating, dehydration or sunburn.
- Adjust or restrict outdoor activities where weather conditions, temperature or UV levels make it unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
- Follow current guidance relating to hot weather, extreme heat and sun safety.
- Ensure appropriate sun protection measures are in place before children participate in outdoor activities.

Parents/carers are encouraged to provide a named sun hat and suitable lightweight clothing for their child.

Sun Cream Provided by School

The school provides suitable children's sun cream for children in **Hedgehogs, Squirrels and Foxes**.

Written parental/carer consent must be provided before school-provided sun cream can be applied by staff or used by children.

Parents/carers must inform the school of any known allergies, skin conditions or sensitivities.

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs children will have their sun cream **applied by an adult**.

Staff will:

- Check that parental consent is in place.

- Apply sun cream to exposed areas of the child's skin in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Wear a clean pair of disposable gloves for each individual child.**
- **Remove and dispose of gloves after each child and use a new pair before applying sun cream to another child.**
- Maintain appropriate hand hygiene before and after application.
- Reapply sun cream in accordance with the school's reapplication procedure.

Squirrels

Squirrels children will begin to develop independence in applying their own sun cream.

- Children will be encouraged to apply their own sun cream with **support and guidance from an adult.**
- Staff will closely supervise the process to ensure that sun cream is applied safely and appropriately.
- An adult will assist or apply sun cream where a child is unable to apply it adequately.
- Staff will use disposable gloves where an adult needs to apply sun cream directly to a child and will change gloves between children.
- Children will be supported to understand why sun cream is important and how to apply it safely.

Foxes

Foxes children will be encouraged to apply their own sun cream.

- Children will apply their own sun cream with **close adult supervision.**
- Staff will ensure children understand how and where to apply sun cream.
- Staff will check that sun cream has been applied appropriately.
- An adult will assist or apply sun cream where necessary.
- Where an adult applies sun cream directly to a child, disposable gloves will be used and changed between children.

This approach supports children's growing independence while ensuring that appropriate adult supervision remains in place.

Sun Cream at Drop-Off

At drop-off, **all parents/carers will be asked whether their child has had sun cream applied at home.**

- If the parent/carer confirms that sun cream has been applied, the child will follow the normal reapplication procedure.
- If the child has **not** had sun cream applied at home, parents/carers will be reminded that children should arrive with sun cream already applied.
- Where a child has not had sun cream applied at home, **or there is any doubt as to whether it has been applied**, a member of staff will ensure that sun cream is applied before the child goes outside.
- Staff will follow the appropriate procedure for the child's age group when applying the school-provided sun cream.
- Where there is uncertainty, the child's sun protection will be prioritised.

Parents/carers are therefore asked to make applying sun cream part of their child's normal morning routine.

Reapplication of Sun Cream

Sun cream will be reapplied **every two hours while children are accessing the outdoors**, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

If children have been indoors for a period of time, sun cream will **only be reapplied when they are next going outside**, if required.

Sun cream will also be reapplied sooner if it has been removed or reduced through activities such as water play.

The appropriate method of application will be followed for each age group:

- **Hedgehogs:** applied by an adult.
- **Squirrels:** children apply with support from an adult.
- **Foxes:** children apply with adult supervision.

Sun Cream Provided by Parents

Parents/carers may provide their own suitable sun cream where agreed with the school.

- The product must be clearly labelled with the child's full name.
- It should be suitable for the child's age and individual needs.
- Parents/carers are responsible for replacing cream when it is empty or expired.
- Sun cream will be stored safely and hygienically in the first aid box kept out of children
- Written consent must be in place before staff apply parent-provided sun cream.
- Where staff apply parent-provided sun cream directly to a child, appropriate hygiene procedures will be followed and disposable gloves will be changed between children.

Consent and Allergies

Written parental/carer consent must be obtained before school-provided sun cream is applied or children are supported to use it.

Parents/carers must inform the school of any allergies, sensitivities, skin conditions or other relevant medical information.

Staff will follow individual care plans where additional arrangements are required.

If a child develops a suspected reaction to the sun cream, its use will be stopped immediately and parents/carers informed. Appropriate first aid will be provided where necessary.

Hot Weather and Extreme Heat Procedure

During periods of hot weather, staff will:

- Increase access to shaded areas.
- Encourage children to drink water regularly.
- Reduce strenuous physical activity where appropriate.
- Closely monitor children for signs of overheating or dehydration.
- Consider changing or limiting outdoor activities where conditions become unsafe.
- Follow current government guidance for early years settings during periods of extreme heat.
- Continue to monitor temperature, UV and UVA forecasts and adapt provision as necessary.

Communication with Parents

Parents/carers will be informed about the school's sun safety arrangements and any significant changes to outdoor provision due to hot or extreme weather.

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Apply sun cream to their child before bringing them to school.
- Provide a named sun hat.
- Provide suitable lightweight clothing.
- Inform staff of any allergies, skin conditions or concerns relating to sun cream or sun exposure.
- Provide written consent for school-provided sun cream to be used.

Sun Safety Education

Staff will help children develop an age-appropriate understanding of sun safety, including:

- Wearing a sun hat.
- Playing in the shade.
- Drinking plenty of water.
- Understanding that the sun can make our skin hot and cause sunburn.
- Understanding the importance of sun cream.
- Developing independence in applying sun cream as appropriate for their age and stage.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for implementing this policy and following the school's procedures for sun safety and the application of sun cream.

Staff must ensure that:

- The parent/carer has been asked at drop-off whether sun cream has been applied.
- Consent is checked before school-provided sun cream is used.
- The correct sun cream is used for each child.
- The appropriate procedure is followed for Hedgehogs, Squirrels and Foxes.
- **A fresh pair of disposable gloves is used whenever an adult applies sun cream directly to a child.**
- Gloves are disposed of after each individual child.
- Appropriate hand hygiene is maintained.
- Children are appropriately supervised and monitored during outdoor play and hot weather.
- Weather conditions, temperature, UV and UVA forecasts are monitored and acted upon appropriately.