North Star Nursery has consulted Cancer Research UK’s SunSmart Guidelines for Nurseries and Pre-schools and Early Years Publications prior to writing the policy below.

**Why have a sun protection policy?**
Very young children have sensitive skin that can be easily damaged by the sun’s dangerous UV rays. At this young age they are unable to take responsibility for their own sun protection. We have a responsibility to ensure that children are protected from the harmful effects of the sun.

**Education:** learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour
- Parents and guardians will be able to access a copy of the policy along with a permission form, relating to the application of sunscreen. In addition a copy of the policy will be on the nursery website.
- Staff will interactively discuss sun protection with children.
- Information about sun protection will be displayed around the nursery and Holiday Club.

**Protection:** providing an environment that enables children and staff to stay safe in the sun

**Shade**
- Shade is provided by the roof canopy and the trees at the top of the garden.
- Older children will be encouraged to spend time in the shaded areas.
- Children who are immobile will be placed with activities in a shaded area.

**Timetabling**
- Young children will not play in the garden between 11.30am and 2.00pm. (please see above for notes on shade)
- All children will be offered water to drink at more frequent intervals during the hot weather. Children are encouraged / reminded to request drinks when they feel they need one.

**Clothing**
- Children will wear suitable hats when playing in the garden. We request that these are brought in from home; however there will be a supply of spare hats for use.
- Staff will wear hats when accompanying children in the garden and on walks to provide good role models.
- Children are allowed to wear UV protective sunglasses, whilst engaged in outdoor activities, please check the protection levels which are advised to be UV 400/100% UV protection.
- We advise parents to dress their children in clothing that covers the shoulders or provide cardigans and t-shirts to put on when playing outside.

**Sunscreen**
- Parents/guardians will supply sunscreen that is no less than **SPF 30** for their child’s use, preferably water resistant. This will be clearly labelled with the child’s name and the date which it was opened.
- New sunscreen will need to be supplied on request from staff. Sunscreen will only be deemed usable if it is within the recommended expiry time. This is shown by an open pot symbol with a number above it specifying the number of months it should be open for (usually 12 or 18 depending on the brand).
We recommend the use of once a day variety sunscreen. If you have chosen this type of sunscreen staff will still apply before each garden session due to water play and hand washing etc.

- There will **not be** spare sunscreen for communal use due to the risk of allergies.
- Children who do not have sunscreen to wear will only be able to play under the roof canopy.
- Parents/guardians will need to sign a consent form to allow staff to apply/supervise the application of sunscreen. This will depend on the age and ability of the child.
- Sunscreen will be applied at least twenty minutes before each session of outdoor activity.
- Parents are advised to apply sunscreen to their children as part of their daily morning routine before dressing them. This will help to protect from the sun whilst travelling to nursery.

Free Flow access to the Garden

- As recommended above the once a day variety of sunscreen aids the children’s free flow access to the garden, although this will still be reapplied regularly.
- Water resistant sunscreen is better suited to water activities in the garden.
- There will be a chart in use to document sunscreen application times to ensure children are always protected.
- During hot weather free flow may be restricted to a shorter length of time to protect children from over exposure to the sun/heat. Alternatively children will be brought inside as and when it is necessary, for each individual’s wellbeing and safety.

Staff will access the Met Office Website for Sun strength each week and display accordingly.

Useful websites include [www.sunsmart.org.uk](http://www.sunsmart.org.uk) and [www.cancerresearchuk.org](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org)

This policy links to Communications Policy, Staff Training Procedure, Child Protection Policy and Health and Safety Policy, staff induction.

To be reviewed bi-annually (next review April 2015), unless an incident or legislation occurs, by Nursery Manager, Nursery Staff, Management Committee, parents/carers and Health Professionals.

I/We have received and read the Sun Protection Policy.

I………………………………………... agree to provide sunscreen of SPF 30 or above for my child. I give my permission for North Star Nursery Practitioners to apply sun cream to my child……………………………… attending nursery.

I ……………………………...give permission for North Star Holiday Club staff to apply and or supervise the application of sunscreen to ……………………………

Signed……………………………………………………….Date………………………….Relation ship to child………………………

Nursery / Holiday Club staff to