**Rationale:**

Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the U.K. and the number of cases is rising at an alarming rate. The good news is that the majority of cases could be prevented. If we protect ourselves from the sun we can reduce our risk. This is particularly important for children and young people whose skin is more delicate and easily damaged.

At Omagh County P.S. we want staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely. We will work with staff, pupils and parents to achieve this through:

**EDUCATION**

**The five key Sun smart skin cancer prevention messages are:**

**S**tay in the shade 11-3

Make sure you never burn

**A**lways cover up – wear a hat and sunglasses

**R**emember children burn more easily

**T**hen use factor 15+

These measures are employed by the school:

**EDUCATION –**

Pupils will learn about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour.

These measures are in place from now on:

* All pupils will have at least one Sun Smart lesson per year.
* The dangers of sunbeds will be highlighted to Key stage 2 pupils during Sun Smart lessons.
* Nursery and Year 5 will participate in sun safety workshops facilitated by Cancer Focus.
* We will talk about how to be Sun Smart in assemblies at the start of the Spring/Summer term and before Summer break.
* Visual displays and posters will be evident in the front hallway and main exits during the Summer term.
* Teachers will be made aware of sun safety and the schools sun safety Policy at the start of the Spring Term and information on sun safety will be provided in the staff room.

**PROTECTION** – this is an ongoing process and will be revised yearly.

Pupils and staff will be provided with an environment that enables them to stay safe in the sun.

**Timetabling:**

* Classes will as far as possible have play and P.E. sessions in the morning, when the sun is not so strong. This will also apply to Sports Day.

**Shade**

* When the sun is strong we will encourage pupils to sit/play in the shade where it is available.

**Clothing:**

* All parents and guardians will be advised by staff to send with their children a hat and sun glasses to wear in sunny weather. Pupils will be encouraged to bring a hat that will cover their ears, face and neck if possible.

**Sunscreen:**

* SUNSCREEN WILL NOT BE PROVIDED BY SCHOOL.
* Sunscreen will be encouraged on school trips, P.E. sessions etc
* During good weather Nursery – Year 3 parents/guardians will be advised to send their children to school wearing a High Factor Sunscreen of 50 or more.
* Year 4-7 pupils will be advised to carry a named bottle of sunscreen in their bag so that they can apply it before going outside.
* Pupils with no sunscreen may not be allowed out in sun on occasions where staff deems the sun to be extremely hot and dangerous.

**COLLABORATION:** working with parents, governors and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.

* Parents and guardians will be informed through the school newsletter, Facebook page and texting service as to what the school is doing about sun protection and how they can help at the start of the summer term.
* Letters will be sent home asking for children to apply sunscreen during the summer months. Receipt of the letter will require a written response from parents.
* O.C.P.S with collaborate with outside agencies e.g. Cancer Focus and Action for Cancer to provide information in the form of leaflets and posters for staff and parents. Outside agencies will also help facilitate the delivery of lessons for pupils.

This policy was reviewed April 2020

We will monitor our progress and review the policy annually.

