SUN PROTECTION POLICY – NURSERY CHILDREN

POLICY STATEMENT

Overton CE primary School Nursery is committed to ensuring that all children and staff are protected from the harmful effects of **ultraviolet (UV) radiation** from the sun. Excessive sun exposure in childhood increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. As a setting, we actively promote **safe sun behaviours**, particularly between **March and October**, and especially **11am to 3pm**, when UV rays are strongest.

AIMS OF THIS POLICY

- To **educate children, staff, and parents** about sun safety.
- To reduce the risk of **sunburn, skin damage**, and **long-term skin cancer**.
- To ensure **children are safe and comfortable** while enjoying the outdoors.
- To promote **good hydration and sun-safe practices**.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Age-appropriate discussions and activities on sun safety will be delivered to children at the start of the summer season.
- All staff receive training and reminders on the importance of sun protection for themselves and for the children in their care.
- Parents and carers are informed of the nursery's sun safety expectations on induction and through seasonal newsletters or reminders.

Staff act as **positive role models**, e.g.:

- Wearing hats and appropriate clothing.
- Seeking shade when possible.
- Regularly applying sunscreen.
- Encouraging children to drink plenty of water.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- The outdoor play area includes **natural and artificial shade** (trees, canopies, shelters).
- During high UV periods, children are encouraged to **play in shaded areas** and staff rotate activities to avoid prolonged direct sun exposure.

CLOTHING AND HYDRATION

- Children should wear **lightweight, loose-fitting clothing** that covers the shoulders (no strappy tops).

- **Sun hats with wide brims or neck flaps** are encouraged. Parents/carers are responsible for providing these.
- Staff are encouraged to wear sun-protective clothing and hats to model good practice.
- Children are encouraged to **drink more fluids** in hot weather.
- Fresh drinking water is always accessible indoors and outdoors via **child-accessible dispensers or jugs**.

SUNSCREEN

- Parents must supply an **unopened**, **in-date** bottle of sunscreen:
  - Must be **minimum SPF 30** and have a **5-star UVA rating**.
  - Must be **clearly labelled** with the child's name.
  - Should be suitable for sensitive skin (hypoallergenic, fragrance-free if possible).
- Sunscreen may be **stored at the nursery** throughout summer if clearly labelled.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

- **Children attending for a half-day**:
  - Sunscreen should be **applied at home** before arrival.
- **Children attending full-day sessions**:
  - Sunscreen should be applied **at home** in the morning.
  - Staff will **support children to reapply** sunscreen as needed in the afternoon, particularly before extended outdoor play.
- Written **parental consent** for staff to apply sunscreen is required.
- Staff will wear **disposable gloves** or use pump applicators where appropriate to maintain hygiene.
- Sunscreen will not be shared between children due to allergy and hygiene risk.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

- This policy is reviewed **annually** or in response to updated guidance.
- Staff are reminded seasonally to adhere strictly to sun protection procedures.
- Parents will be reminded in **spring** of the need to provide hats and sunscreen.