

Date: June 2022

Review date: June 2023

Responsibility: AP

Bishop Challoner School



Biting Policy



Bishop Challoner School EYFS Biting Policy

Biting is a behaviour that is sometimes seen in younger children – particularly in the preschool child. Children are at a stage of their development whereby they may struggle to communicate verbally and are learning the rules, boundaries and etiquette of appropriate interaction. Biting may be more common in children who have difficulty communicating and could be an identifying feature of more complex communications delay/disorder.

When a child or member of staff is bitten, staff will follow the following procedure:

- If staff witness a child being bitten, they must signal for the biter to stop with a flat palmed gesture and a clear “No” instruction.
- The biting child must be removed quietly and gently from the scenario, without further discussion.
- The bitten child must immediately be comforted and explained to that what happened to them was not kind. The Head of EYFS or Reception class teacher must be informed at this point.
- The bitten child should be examined by the Head of EYFS/Reception teacher and the member of staff who witnessed/dealt with the incident. If clothing needs to be removed/adjusted to examine the area then two adults must be present to act as chaperone.
- First aid should be administered, as necessary. A cold compress should be applied in most cases to limit bruising.
- The child who has been bitten, must be spoken to appropriately by an adult, as is suitable for their age and development.
- The biting child should be reminded that mouths are for speaking and eating food only and not for biting children. They should be reminded that they have made the other child very sad and then they should be asked to apologise.
- A written incident form should be completed, keeping names confidential, and shared with parents that day.
- Where the bite has broken the skin and cross-infection is a risk, then the parents of both children should be called and asked to collect their child for medical advice.
- If a child is a recurrent biter, then a home/school behaviour plan should be mutually agreed between parents and school. This plan may include the parents collecting the child if they consistently bite another. The family may also be requested to reduce the child’s sessions. Through progression to Reception class or the Pre-Prep and Preparatory School may not be permitted if biting/negative behaviour continues uncorrected. The safety of all children is paramount. All staff will be allowed to view and share any behaviour plan so as best to support the child in a consistent fashion.

- In the situation where an SEND is considered the underlying cause for lack of appropriate communications then the SEND policy should be adhered to and discussions must take place with the parents as regards appropriate development and how best to support this. The whole team must then be made aware of strategies that are employed to prevent biting and support positive behaviour management.

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