



BITING POLICY

Biting is fairly common among children and can be a concern for staff. Biting can often be painful and frightening for the child who has been bitten. It can also be frightening for the child who bites, because it upsets the other child and can make adults cross. Biting happens for different reasons with different children and under different circumstances. It is important that we as staff understand and support the child to prevent these incidents.

Children bite for numerous reasons, sometimes to get attention, sometimes through imitation, sometimes as a powerful way to control others, through frustration and through stress. Biting draws attention to the child quickly because of the reaction of the child who has been bitten.

At Nursery biting incidents are recorded in the accident book. Staff will discuss the incident with the parent/carer of the child who has been bitten and with the parent/carer of the child who did the biting. These discussions will be done separately and away from the other parent/carers.

First aid treatment will be given in the form of a cold compress or the area would be cleaned and dressed should the skin be broken. The child will of course be comforted and taken away from the child that has bitten them, until they feel ready to play again. The child who has done the biting will be spoken to by a member of staff. They will explain to the child that biting is not okay and that they have hurt the other child. They would also explain how the child could have reacted instead of biting.

Should a pattern of biting behaviour develop then strategies will be put in place. A review of when and where the incidents occur will be recorded in the child's person file and the strategies put in place. A meeting may be set up with the parent/carer to explore whether the behaviour is happening at home and whether there have been any changes in their home life that may be impacting on the child's behaviour.

All staff will help to support the child's key person in implementing the strategies put in place. These strategies would involve the child's key person shadowing the child to try to intervene before an incident occurs and to teach the child the correct way to deal with a situation. All staff will reinforce to the child appropriate behaviour and teach the child how to respond to stressful and frustrating situations. All the children at Nursery will be made aware that biting someone is never correct behaviour.

If one particular child is being targeted by a child who is biting, the parent/carer of that child will be reassured that strategies have been put in place. We work together as a team and with the parent/carer to support them, and to ensure every strategy and prevention is put in place to resolve the behaviour.

This policy was reviewed and agreed at a meeting of the St Peter's Nursery School Management Committee held on