Wyburns Primary School

Everyone has Brilliance inside of them

EYFS - Biting Policy

Date Policy Created	July 2026
Last Review	
Next Review	July 2027

Policy Overview

Evidence suggests up to a quarter of all children will bite others at some stage and this is a normal stage of development for many children. We acknowledge that this can be a challenging time for all children and families affected by this. This policy outlines how our school nursery and reception staff support children going through this process and children who are subjected to incidents of biting.

Although this policy is written in reference to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), it may also be applied to older children where behaviours such as biting are consistent with a younger developmental stage or additional needs. In these cases, support strategies will be adapted to reflect the individual child's development and needs, ensuring a consistent and inclusive approach.

Our aim is for EYFS staff to:

- support the children and parents/carers involved in any incidents of biting.
- identify children's biting triggers and work to actively reduce them.
- manage incidents consistently and inline with the policy, including identifying and implementing the most effective support strategy for each child.

In the event of a biting incident, our procedure is to:

- Remove the child who has bitten away from the child who has been bit.
- Reassure and support both children.
- Treat any injuries.

<u>Treating an Injury</u>

1. A bitten area should be cleaned with running water or a saline solution.
2. A cold compress will be applied, unless the bite is bleeding. In this situation, it will be covered with a sterile pad and pressure applied.
3. The incident will be recorded.
4. If there is no obvious mark or bruising, the incident will be discussed with the parents/carers at collection time.
5. If there is a mark or bruising visible (after a cold compress has been applied), or if the skin has been broken, then a phone call will be made to the child's parents/carers.

If a child's skin has been broken by a bite, the school's recommendation would be for the parent/carer to seek medical advice. This is paramount if the child has not had, or is not up to date with, tetanus..

<u>Preventative Strategies</u>

- Providing sensory equipment for chewing.
- Establishing an alternative to meet the child's sensory needs.
- Provide activities which help children to release tension and frustration, such as physical outdoor play, digging in sand and sensory experiences, will be available.
- Write and implement personal social stories.
- Use Makaton to aid communication.
- Work in partnership with families (and where appropriate specialist agencies) to understand the child's needs and plan effectively to meet them.
- Positive reinforcement and encouragement strategies.

- Staff, where appropriate, will use the Functional Behavioural Analysis (FBA) STAR observation to understand influencing factors. This will include recording triggers and monitoring antecedents.