St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School

Nursery Biting Policy

September 2026

Review: September 2027

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on an annual basis.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body September 2026

It is due for review in September 2027

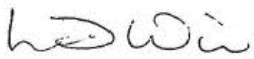
Hayley Francis Date: September 2026

Head Teacher



Lindsay Wise Date: September 2026

Chair of Governors



Many young children go through a biting phase as part of their development. Biting can occur when a child does not yet have the words or emotional skills to communicate anger, frustration, excitement, tiredness, sensory needs or other feelings.

The nursery recognises that biting can be upsetting for children, parents and staff. We will respond calmly, consistently and sensitively, while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children.

The aim of this policy is to:

- Reduce the likelihood of biting occurring.
- Identify and address possible triggers.
- Support children to develop appropriate ways of communicating their needs and emotions.
- Respond consistently when biting occurs.
- Work in partnership with parents/carers.
- Maintain the confidentiality of all children involved.

Preventing or Minimising Biting

Staff will use appropriate strategies to reduce the likelihood of biting, including:

- Providing a stimulating and appropriately resourced environment.
- Ensuring children have sufficient access to suitable resources and activities.
- Providing sensory activities where appropriate.
- Supporting children to develop language and alternative ways of communicating their feelings and needs.
- Observing children to identify possible triggers for biting.

- Providing appropriate support during periods of frustration, tiredness, transition or conflict.
- Where appropriate, providing an individual biting ring or ball for a child who has a recognised need to bite.

Any individual biting ring or ball must:

- Be kept in the child's own drawer or designated personal storage area.
- Not be shared with or used by another child.
- Be cleaned after use in accordance with the nursery's hygiene procedures.

Procedure Following a Biting Incident

When a child bites another child, staff will respond calmly and promptly.

Supporting the child who has been bitten

1. The child who has bitten will be calmly moved away from the situation and given an opportunity to settle.
2. Immediate attention will be given to the child who has been bitten.
3. The child will be comforted and checked for any visible injury.
4. The affected area will be cleaned and appropriate first aid provided.
5. An accident/incident form will be completed in accordance with nursery procedures.
6. Parents/carers will be informed of all biting incidents. Where an injury requires treatment or ongoing monitoring, this will be clearly communicated.
7. If the bite has caused broken skin, the area will be monitored throughout the day for signs of infection.
8. Where the injury is significant or requires further medical assessment, parents/carers will be contacted immediately and advised accordingly. Urgent medical attention will be sought where necessary.

Parents/carers will be informed on collection about the incident and the measures being put in place to reduce the likelihood of further biting.

The nursery will not disclose the name or personal details of the child who has bitten another child.

Supporting the child who has bitten

Staff will respond calmly and without shaming or humiliating the child.

1. The child's mouth and surrounding area will be gently cleaned with warm water and dried with a paper towel where necessary.
2. If appropriate and the child can do so safely, they may be encouraged to rinse their mouth with cool water.
3. The child will be given time and space to calm down, away from the immediate situation where appropriate.
4. Once calm, a member of staff will talk to the child using simple, age-appropriate language, for example:
    - "No biting. Biting hurts."

    - "Biting made [child's name] cry and hurt them."
    - "If you are angry or need help, you can talk to a grown up. We do not bite."
5. Staff will help the child identify an alternative response, such as using words, asking for help, moving away, using a sensory resource or seeking support from an adult.
6. Where appropriate, the child may be encouraged to think about how they could help the other child feel better.

The focus will be on teaching the child an appropriate alternative behaviour rather than punishment.

An incident form will be completed on Nursery in a box. The form relating to the child who has bitten will not identify the child who was bitten.

Parents/carers will be informed on collection and advised of the strategies being used to support their child. Parents/carers will be encouraged to use consistent language and strategies at home where appropriate.

Repeated Biting

Where biting is repeated, staff will seek to understand why the behaviour is occurring rather than simply focusing on the behaviour itself.

Staff will:

- Complete observations of the child.
- Use an appropriate observation method to identify patterns of occurrence.
- Consider what happened immediately before the biting incident.
- Identify possible triggers, such as frustration, communication difficulties, tiredness, changes in routine, sensory needs, conflict over resources or transitions.
- Consider what happened immediately after the incident.
- Discuss observations and concerns with the child's parents/carers.
- Agree appropriate strategies to support the child.
- Develop an individual behaviour/support plan where required.
- Review the effectiveness of the strategies regularly.

All staff working with the child should be made aware of agreed strategies so that responses remain consistent.

Partnership with Parents/Carers

The nursery recognises that biting can be distressing for parents/carers of both the child who has bitten and the child who has been bitten.

Staff will communicate sensitively and professionally with parents/carers and will:

- Explain what happened factually and without judgement.
- Explain the steps taken to support the children involved.
- Discuss strategies being used to reduce further incidents.

- Encourage consistency between home and nursery.
- Maintain the confidentiality of all children involved.

The nursery will never disclose the identity of another child involved in a biting incident.

Confidentiality and Record Keeping

All accident and incident records will be completed accurately and stored securely on the portal - Nursery in Box.

Information relating to another child must not be disclosed to parents/carers. Staff must ensure that written records, verbal communication and discussions with families always maintain confidentiality.