



# St Hilary's School

## EYFS Biting Management Policy

### **School Ethos**

At St. Hilary's School, we aim to create a happy, caring environment in which children develop self-confidence and independence and are encouraged to be considerate and show respect for others, while reaching their true potential. We actively promote democracy, the rule of the law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These are fundamental British Values which underpin all that we offer, as does our School Moto 'Not for oneself but for all.'

### **Aims of the Policy**

At St Hilary's School we aim to ensure that all children in our care 'learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.' (*Statutory Framework for EYFS, 2017, p5*). This includes clear behavioural expectations, to enable the children to flourish as a unique child, with positive relationships with adults and peers alike within a safe, nurturing and enabling environment (*Development Matters in the EYFS 2012*).

Biting is a natural developmental stage that many children go through. It is usually a temporary condition that is most common between thirteen and twenty-four months of age and is part of the natural exploration of a child of this age.

We recognise how upset parents/carers may be when they learn their child has been bitten; however, we also recognise that biting is a normal component of child development. We do recognise that even with the best strategies in place and all efforts made to prevent this happening, it is inevitable an incident may occur.

Young children do not understand the difference between gnawing and biting a person. They discover that when they bite a person, they get a reaction. Children may bite to get attention, even though it is negative. They may also bite because they see another do it and are testing the boundaries or because they are frustrated and need to relieve stress or tension.

EYFS staff understand all the causes that may contribute to a child being bitten and any course of action is to address the issue with an aim to resolve it. The safety of the children at St Hilary's is our primary concern. The EYFS biting policy addresses the actions the staff will take if a biting incident occurs and to prevent it reoccurring.

### **Staff will:**

- maintain a close and constant supervision of the children at all times.
- encourage the children to use words, actions or symbols if they become angry or frustrated.
- be consistent in providing an appropriate learning environment and daily programme to help reduce the number of biting incidents that can occur.

In the event of a child being bitten, that child with the injury is immediately comforted and attention to the affected area is carried out by a trained Pediatric First Aid member of staff. The bitten area should continue to be observed by parents and staff for signs of infection.

The biter will be told in a firm voice that, "It is not ok to bite, biting hurts." While the bitten child is being cared for, the child who bit will wait with the adult. Next they will either verbally or with actions be asked to apologise to the child that has been bitten.

If necessary, staff will refer to the EYFS Behaviour Management Policy if unacceptable behaviour persists.

#### **After the Incident:**

- A record will be made of:
  - Who was involved
  - What happened before and after the event
  - When and where
  - How the situation was handled
  - The incident will be recorded in the accident book
  - The EYFS Behaviour Management Officer will be informed
- Parents/Carers of the bitten child are informed by telephone whenever possible of the incident and through the Accident and Incident report at collection, when a member of staff can speak to them in person.
- Parents /Carers of the child who bit are informed by staff either upon collection or by telephone.
- If biting becomes more persistent (more than three times in a term), strategies are agreed between staff and parents on ways forward to prevent further incidences of biting. The Headmistress will also be informed of these persistent biting incidents.

**Reviewed: June, 2019**

**Next review date: June, 2020**

**Person responsible: Mrs Ursula Hillery**