



Biting Policy

Aim of the Policy – St Aidan's Biting Policy is in place to ensure parents are aware of the strategies that may be employed within the nursery to manage the common issue of biting and to ensure all practitioners use a consistent approach.

Many children go through stages of investigation in their development that others can find unacceptable or distressing. Biting is an example of this and is particularly prevalent in children whose language skills are only just developing and can often be an expression of frustration that they have not yet acquired the skills to express what they are feeling.

It is important that team members and parents work together to establish common strategies for addressing this behaviour both at home and within the nursery. Strategies applied in cases of biting will take into account the age and developmental stage of the individual child.

St Aidan's will follow these procedures in the event of a child being bitten:

- We will comfort the bitten child and administer appropriate first aid. This may include the application of Sudocream on the bite (as long as consent for Sudocream has been given on the Declaration of Consent Form.)
- If it is a serious bite, it is good practice to call the parent of the child who has been bitten to forewarn them.
- It is important to acknowledge that it is the behaviour that is unacceptable and not the child.
- Distraction methods will be used to manage potentially unacceptable behaviour.
- Verbal labelling of children with such terms as naughty will not be used and children's behaviour will not be a topic of discussion within the room.
- If age and developmentally appropriate the child who bit will be asked to apologise to the child/adult who has been hurt (mainly appropriate for older Toddlers & Preschool)
- We will always inform the parent of the child that has bitten and explore with them their strategy for dealing with such incidents if they occur at home or elsewhere and also ask them to sign an incident form.
- We will always inform the parent of the child that has been bitten and ask them to sign an Accident form.
- Team members will not disclose the identity of the child that has bitten as it is vital to maintain the confidentiality of the children concerned.
- If incidents are recurring, then a risk assessment will be put in place to ensure the health and safety of children and staff.

If we have a persistent biter, we will invoke the Behaviour Concern Procedure

The nursery has a Behaviour Management Coordinator who can support colleagues to implement our strategies for persistent biters.