

MANOR HOUSE SCHOOL EYFS BITING POLICY

Date of Issue: **February 2019**
Date of Review: **February 2021**
Responsibility: **Head of Early Years**

References:

Independent School Standard Regulations (2014);
Statutory EYFS Framework
[DfE: Behaviour and Discipline in Schools \(January 2016\);](#)
[DfE: Preventing and Tackling Bullying \(July 2017\);](#)
[DfE: KCSIE 2018](#)

Overview

For younger children, biting can be part of their developmental process, which the majority of children do not continue once they grow older; however, a small number continue this behaviour. Being bitten can be painful and frightening experience for both children involved, and the biter may be worried about the reaction of other adults and children. It is important for staff try to understand the reasons for the incident and put in place some strategies to stop this happening again.

Most children do not repeat this behaviour if they are corrected properly; therefore, it is important to handle these incidents in an appropriate manner. Matters are also complicated if the pupil in question or the bitten person has an infectious disease.

Reporting Bites

- If a child bites another pupil in the class, the incident is recorded on an accident form to give to the parents.
- The date and time of the incident is recorded in the medical book, along with the names of the children involved and the school nurse is informed. She will check the record to ascertain whether they have an up to date immunisation record.
- A body map is completed to record the location of the bite which is attached to the accident form and given to the school nurse

Pupils who have been bitten:

- Staff will comfort the child to ease any distress
- Check for any visible signs of injury and put on gloves
- If the pupil's skin is broken, the wound is left to bleed gently before being cleaned with warm water
- Dress the area if appropriate
- Ask for advice from the school nurse where necessary
- Both the parents of the biter and the child that has been bitten must be informed, regardless of the severity of the incident
- If a child tells an adult they have been bitten but the member of staff has not witnessed the incident, the member of staff must check for visible signs of a bite
- The above procedures must be followed if there is a bite mark
- If there is no visible sign of a bite a member of staff must talk to the child involved

Pupils who bite

- Staff must speak to the child about the incident in a calm measured way using positive language
- Check that they are not injured in any way themselves
- Remind the child of the nursery rules
- Staff must explain that biting hurts
- Staff must observe the behaviour of the biter and aim to intervene if this happens again
- Staff must inform the parents to discuss the incident

- If the biting continues and gets serious, the staff must be observed or shadowed by a care (shadowed at ten minutes at a time without hindering their play or activities) and the observations will be monitored to see why the biting is reoccurring
- Parents will be recommended to seek further advice should this become necessary
- If either child is known to have a blood bourne virus the Headteacher will need to inform both sets of parents of the pupils involved and recommend they seek medical assistance

Staff who have been bitten

- Check for any visible signs of injury
- If the skin is broken, the wound is left to bleed gently before being cleaned with warm water
- Dress the area if appropriate
- Ask for advice from the school nurse where necessary
- If the child has a blood bourne virus medical advice must be sought
- If the member of staff has a BBV the Head teacher will need to inform the parents.
- An accident form must be completed which will be kept in the staff members file

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Reviewed and Updated: