

Palfrey Infants Nursery and School Biting Policy



GB 28.11.23

M. H. Paulk

This policy will be reviewed Summer 2026

As a Rights Respecting School we believe:

Every child has to learn and have an education. Article 28 & 29

Every child has a right to be safe from harm and abuse : Article 19

Every child has a right of freedom of expression. Article 13

Every child has a right to be part of a community and practise his or her own religion and use his or her own language Article 30

Every child has a right to rest and leisure. Article 31

Every child has a right to keep healthy Article 24

We believe we fulfil these rights at Palfrey Infant School

School Ethos

At Palfrey Infant School and Nursery, 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 of those with different faiths and beliefs. These are fundamental British Values which underpin all that we offer.

Aims of the Policy

At Palfrey Infant School we aim to ensure that all children in our care learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. Adults in school promote positive behaviour and relationships by modelling 'positive behaviour and highlight(ing) exemplary behaviour of children in class, narrating what was kind and considerate about the behaviour.' Development Matters, 2020, Updated 2021 p68.

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 Palfrey Infants 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 interesting daily activities, to help reduce the number of biting incidents that can occur.

In the event of a child being bitten, the child with the injury is immediately comforted and attention to the affected area is carried out by a trained Paediatric First Aid member of staff. If the skin has been perforated, the area will be clean with a sterilised wipe and the parents/carers informed immediately, as medical advice may need to be sought. 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 an adult. Next they will either verbally or with Makaton be asked to apologise to the child that has been bitten. If necessary, staff will refer to the schools 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 on the accident forms and on CPOMs**
- The Learning Mentor 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 Head and Deputy Head will also be informed of these persistent biting incidents.

Reviewed: June 2025, Re- adopted 2.7.25 FGB

Next review date: Summer 2027