



# Blackmoor Park Infant School and Kindergarten: Biting Policy

**Author/owner: SLT**

**Date adopted: February 2025**

**Review: September 2026**

We are a rights respecting school. All our policies and procedures are written and reviewed to ensure that children's rights, as detailed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, are respected and promoted and this policy ensures:

**Article 3 — Best Interests of the Child:**

*The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect them.*

**Article 19 — Protection from Violence, Abuse, and Neglect:**

*Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or mentally.*

**Article 24 — Health and Health Services:**

*Every child has the right to the best possible health, including health care and education on preventing injury.*

**Article 28 — Right to Education:**

*Every child has the right to an education. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights.*

**Article 29 — Goals of Education:**

*Education must develop every child's personality, talents, and abilities to the full, and encourage respect for others.*

## **Biting Policy at Blackmoor Park Infant School and Kindergarten**

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to promote the safety, well-being, and emotional development of all children and staff within Blackmoor Park Infant School and Kindergarten, ensuring that biting incidents are handled with care, empathy, and in accordance with best practices. This policy aligns with our school's commitment to fostering a nurturing and respectful learning environment.

### **Policy Statement:**

Biting is a common behaviour among young children, especially in early years settings, and can occur for various reasons including limited communication skills, teething discomfort, frustration, or exploration. While we recognise that biting is a natural part of some children's development, it is essential to manage incidents promptly and supportively to safeguard all children and help them learn appropriate behaviours.

### **Procedures:**

#### **1. Immediate Response:**

- Separate the children calmly and safely, ensuring that no further harm occurs.
- Comfort the child who was bitten, offering reassurance and administering first aid as needed (e.g., cleaning the wound, applying a cold compress).
- Reassure the child who bit, explaining in simple, clear, and consistent language that biting is not acceptable because it hurts others.
- Provide a quiet space for both children to calm down if necessary, supported by a staff member.

#### **2. Incident Recording:**

- Record the incident in the accident/incident log, including the date, time, location, children involved, details of the bite, actions taken, and staff present.
- Complete a body map (if required) to document the location and severity of the bite.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times — children's names will not be disclosed to other parents or carers.

#### **3. Parent Communication:**

- Inform the parents of the child who was bitten, explaining the incident sensitively and outlining the care provided.
- Speak with the parents of the child who bit, emphasising understanding and support rather than blame, and discussing strategies to prevent future incidents.
- Arrange follow-up meetings if necessary to discuss progress or further support needs.

#### **4. Ongoing Support and Prevention:**

- Observe and monitor children involved to identify triggers or patterns of biting behaviour (e.g., crowded spaces, transitions, toy disputes).
- Implement proactive strategies, such as using visual cues, introducing sensory activities, and teaching alternative communication methods (e.g., sign language, emotion cards).
- Encourage positive behaviour through praise, reward systems, and role modelling kindness and empathy.
- Use circle time, storytelling, and group discussions to teach children about feelings, personal space, and conflict resolution.

#### **5. Staff Training and Development:**

- Provide regular training for staff on behaviour management, de-escalation techniques, and child development.
- Ensure staff are confident in responding to biting incidents calmly and consistently, following the agreed procedures.
- Foster a collaborative team approach where staff share insights and strategies to address persistent biting behaviours.

#### **6. Partnership with Parents and External Agencies:**

- Work closely with parents to create a consistent approach to behaviour management between home and school.
- Offer resources and guidance to parents, such as leaflets on childhood behaviour or referrals to child development specialists.
- In cases of persistent or severe biting, seek support from external professionals (e.g., health visitors, educational psychologists, speech and language therapists).

#### **Review and Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed annually or following any significant incident to ensure it remains effective, responsive, and in line with the latest guidance on early years behaviour management. Feedback from staff, parents, and external partners will be incorporated into policy updates.

At Blackmoor Park Infant School and Kindergarten, we are committed to creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where children can thrive, learn, and develop essential social skills.