

Thomas Gray Primary School
BITING POLICY

At Thomas Gray Primary we understand that there will be occasions when children may bite, especially as a group of children are being looked after together. Biting is a behaviour that particularly worries parents but many children bite when they are young.

We aim to educate parents and carers that biting is a normal behaviour or phase for some young children. A baby will often bite when they are teething, overtired, jealous, frustrated, etc., or to simply see what happens when they bite, which is especially true of babies and young children, who may just be experimenting and exploring their world. Biting can also relieve the discomfort of teething and may be an expression of excitement. Biting in young babies is not a concern but we will aim to redirect this behaviour early on. Between 13 and 30 months, the incidence of biting tends to increase and should stop around 3 years of age. Toddlers mainly bite out of frustration for example if another child has a toy they want; this becomes a bigger problem when a group of toddlers are looked after together. It can also be an aspect of assertive behaviour.

The situation regarding biting can be compounded, when parents are involved. One of the worst things about having a child who bites is the reaction of other parents. Unless their child also bites, they may find it difficult to understand that biting is a normal developmental behaviour and is rarely dangerous to other children, almost any toddler can bite. We will support parents in helping their child to stop biting using the strategies listed below: All practitioners will apply the guidelines consistently.

- Help the child to understand that biting is not acceptable behaviour, when they bite to look them in the eye and say, firmly "No biting" or "Stop biting. That hurts."
- Make sure the child does not think biting is a game, staff will not laugh even if the biting is playful.
- If one child bites another, they will be separated and we will say, "No biting". Staff will spend time comforting the child who has been bitten
- Staff will look at ways to teach the child who is biting more appropriate ways of communicating what they want. They will acknowledge the strong feelings that can be associated with being part of a group of children and how this may be stressful for very young children.
- When staff see a child using the strategies taught, they will give praise and encouragement.
- Staff will be good role models
- The nursery will seek professional help if the above measures do not improve the situation.

Signed: A. P. Taylor Date: 10-07-18.
Chair of Governors

Signed: [Signature] Date: 10-07-18.
Headteacher

Date to be reviewed: July 1920