

Hoo St Werburgh
Primary School

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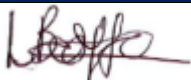
The
Marlborough



Hoo St Werburgh Primary School

Nursery & Early Years Biting Policy

September 2025

Signatories		
Head of School	Mrs L Boffa	
Executive Head	Mrs E Poad	
Chair of Governors	Mrs A Costidell	

Members of Staff Responsible:	
Mr L Boffa	Head of School
Mrs L Hunt	Assistant Headteacher

Review	
Dated	September 2025
Next Review	2 Years – September 2027

This policy is for the Nursery and for Early Years – Reception at Hoo St Werburgh Primary School

Biting is fairly common in young children and it evokes strong emotions in adults, both parents and teaching staff. Biting is often very painful and frightening for the child who has been bitten. It can also be very frightening for the child who bites. Biting happens for different reasons with different children under different circumstances. The first step in learning to control it is to look at why it is happening and looking at the child to see if there is any underlying reason for them to bite.

Teething aside, children may bite for several reasons including:

- **Curiosity** – toddlers may bite to see what their friends' arms taste like or to see a reaction.
- **Frustration** – inability to express themselves verbally. Instead of hitting another child with whom they are frustrated with, the child may bite them. Or if things are not going their way, toddlers may get very angry and lash out by biting.
- **Copying** – children who see another child or adult biting may think that this is a good idea, therefore we recommend parents do not play bite or nibble as a sign of affection.
- **Seeking attention** – biting is a good way of getting others to take notice, even if the attention gained is negative.

Stopping a child from biting is not easy. It is important that you are calm and consistent in your handling of it.

At Hoo St Werburgh Primary School we acknowledge that biting is common behaviour among young children. We recognise that the majority of children will learn not to bite in time and we are very clear, calm and firm when a child does bite and offer praise and warmth when they don't.

Biting Reporting

If an incident of biting does occur, the parents of both children will be informed. This will be recorded in the incident/accident book and logged on IRIS

Supporting Biting Child

We recommend that if your child bites we show disapproval and very firmly and calmly say "no we do not bite. It hurts and it is not nice". We use gesture and facial expression to reinforce the message.

Extra support is given to the biting child who may be shadowed closely until the phase passes. We would share books and resources with all children as a distraction.

Supporting Child Who Has Been Bitten

If a child is a victim of biting, our staff are trained to deal with this situation and will immediately comfort the child saying “I am very sorry (name of child) has bitten you”.

Biting is always taken seriously and staff do their best to ensure that this is stopped as soon as possible. We prefer not to disclose to parents the name of the child who has bitten. It is unnecessary to know their identity, however if a parent finds out who has bitten their child, we strongly recommend they do not complain directly to other parents.