



**ST BERNARD'S  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
EARLY YEARS DEPARTMENT**

**BITING POLICY**

**ADVENT 2018**

# St Bernard's Preparatory School

## BITING POLICY

### Mission Statement

**With God as our shelter and Christ as our guide, the mission of St Bernard's Preparatory School is to educate towards love and service to God, each other and the wider community. Through our broad balanced curriculum we will develop an understanding of each faith and the values we share. We will treat each person with respect, knowing we are special and unique.**

**St Bernard's is part of the St Benedict's family of schools. All schools in the group share a similar Catholic and Benedictine/Bernardine ethos.**

### **Aim**

The welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage state that children's behaviour must be managed effectively and in a manner appropriate for their stage of development and particular individual needs.

Biting tends to occur in waves when young children are in small groups, and staff need to decide how they can try to prevent it as well as how they will respond when it happens. Young children can bite for a number of reasons- it may simply be that the child lacks the language to resolve conflicts over toys and so resorts to biting, it may be that the child is teething and so is wanting to put things into their mouth including other children's fingers; or it may be that a child gets a little bit carried away when giving their friends a kiss on the cheek and so actually nips or sucks the child's face. Biting often causes a great deal of anxiety, and needs to be dealt with appropriately.

### **Role of the Practitioner**

- Prevention wherever possible is usually the key element to avoiding incidents of biting amongst children. Staff, by being observant and sensitive at risky moments can often prevent a child from biting another if they are alert to the situation.
- Children who are prone to biting should be shadowed by a supportive adult during those risky moments e.g. Tidy up time/ changeover periods, moments of rising tension when children are gathered together within a group. If during these times it is not possible for an adult to be with the child then they should be placed somewhere safe until the adult is able to shadow them once more.
- If a situation of biting does occur, the child who has bitten should be encouraged to sit with an adult whilst the focus is turned to the child who has been bitten.
- The bite should be placed under cold running water to reduce bruising or cleaned should the skin be broken using the usual procedures
- Once the child who has been bitten has been dealt with, the staff member will turn her attention to the child who has bitten, the usual behaviour management process will be followed where the staff member will reinforce the need for the child to be kind/ gentle to his/her friends. Remember to reinforce the behaviour that you want to see not what you have just seen.
- The key worker will record the incident in the accident logbook, kept in the EYFS Department, and inform The Head of Pre-Prep. The accident book will be signed by the parents at the end of the day.
- If necessary parents will be informed of the incident via a telephone call.
- The key worker will speak to the child's parents as appropriate.

**Applies to:**

Whole School including Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), all staff, peripatetics, clubs and extra-curricular activity providers, volunteers, Trustees, Governors.

**Related policies:**

EYFS, Safeguarding Portfolio, Behaviour, Anti-bullying, First Aid, Health and Safety

**Availability:**

This Policy is available to parents on the website [www.stbernardsprep.org](http://www.stbernardsprep.org) or a copy can be requested from the school office.

**Monitoring and Review**

The Governors will undertake a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged no later than two years from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_

Headmaster \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Governors \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_