

Bailey's Court Primary School

Breaches Gate, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 8AZ

BITING POLICY

Issue 1

September 2026

Approved by:

Head Teacher

Authorised by:

Chair of Governing Body Bailey's Court
Primary School

Review Date: September 2027

EYFS Biting Policy

At Bailey Bird Nursery, we understand that biting can occur in early childhood and is often a form of communication rather than deliberate aggression. While biting is upsetting for everyone involved, it is a common behaviour in young children as they learn to manage emotions, language, boundaries and social interactions.

We are committed to supporting all children in a calm, consistent and nurturing way while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of every child in our care, as well as the safety and wellbeing of staff.

Our Aims

We aim to:

- Keep all children safe.
- Respond to incidents calmly and consistently.
- Support children to develop appropriate ways to express feelings and needs.
- Work closely with parents/carers to understand and reduce biting behaviours.
- Avoid labelling or shaming children.

Why Children May Bite

Children aged 3-4 may bite for a variety of reasons, including:

- Frustration or anger
- Limited language or communication skills
- Over-excitement or overstimulation
- Anxiety or changes in routine
- Seeking attention
- Difficulties with sharing or turn-taking
- Sensory needs
- Tiredness or hunger

Staff will consider the possible cause behind the behaviour and respond appropriately.

How Staff Will Respond

If a biting incident occurs, staff will:

1. **Respond immediately and calmly**
 - Ensure all children are safe.
 - Comfort and support the child who has been bitten first.
 - Use clear, age-appropriate language such as:
 "Biting hurts. We use kind hands and kind words."
2. **Support the child who bit**
 - Help them regulate their emotions.
 - Encourage communication and problem-solving.
 - Reinforce appropriate behaviours.
 - Avoid shouting, shaming or harsh punishment.
3. **Administer first aid if required**
 - The bitten area will be cleaned and monitored.
 - Parents/carers of the injured child will be informed.
4. **Record the incident**
 - All biting incidents will be documented and shared with relevant parents/carers.
 - Confidentiality will be maintained at all times; the name of the other child will not be disclosed.

Preventative Strategies

To help reduce biting incidents, staff will:

- Maintain consistent routines and clear boundaries.
- Support children with emotional literacy and communication skills.
- Model positive interactions and conflict resolution.
- Observe patterns or triggers linked to biting behaviour.
- Provide engaging activities and opportunities for movement and sensory regulation.
- Ensure close supervision during high-risk times such as transitions and busy play periods.

Working with Parents/Carers

We believe partnership with parents/carers is essential. If biting becomes a repeated concern, we will:

- Arrange a discussion with parents/carers.
- Share observations and possible triggers.
- Agree supportive strategies to use both at nursery and at home.
- Monitor progress together.

Where appropriate, additional advice or support may be sought from outside professionals.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Bailey Bird Nursery recognises that all children develop differently. Responses to biting behaviour will always take into account a child's age, stage of development and any additional needs.

We are committed to creating a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all children.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it reflects current best practice and the needs of the children attending Bailey Bird Nursery.