ROWAN TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL BITING PREVENTION POLICY

First Written and Adopted by governors:	September 2019
Reviewed and Re Adopted by Governors on:	November 2026
Signature of Chair of Governors:	Luisa Preston
To be reviewed annually. Next review:	November 2027

Biting Prevention Policy

Biting is a natural developmental stage that many children go through. This stage can last longer for pupils whose development and progression are delayed. The safety of the pupils at Rowan Tree Primary School is our primary concern. Although it can be upsetting for parents of both children we ask for patience and understanding if your child is bitten by another child.

The staff will use clear language and be consistent in their approach when dealing with an incident of biting. Our aim is in the efforts made in our prevention procedures to help the child take a further step to self-control. We will endeavour to establish the children's reasons for biting and to take proper measures to prevent further incidents wherever possible.

Why do children bite?

- Biting is a natural part of a child's development.
- Each situation is unique because of the different personalities involved - Children bite for a variety of reasons
- Some pupils do not have the verbal skills to fully express themselves and therefore bite out of frustration, or to communicate they have an unmet need that the adults are not aware of.
- Biting brings about a quick and dramatic response.
- Children experience many emotions (positive and negative) that are difficult to express and, at times control. These emotions may be caused by several things; over-excitement, frustration, fatigue, fear of being separated from people they love etc, which can sometimes lead them to bite
- Biting maybe due to a need to get some sensory feedback

Biting Prevention

- We examine and develop our programmes so that the pupils are happy, stimulated and engaged in activities to prevent these incidents.
- We organise activities that allow our children to release frustration.
- We provide need-appropriate materials that stimulate interest.
- We provide close supervision and monitor each situation.
- Staff will be aware of conflict of personality between pupils and act accordingly and separate the pupils when and where necessary.
- Staff will be aware that a simple conflict over a toy or personal space could be enough to cause a child to bite.
- Staff will know the temperaments of the pupils and look for patterns in a frequent biter to inform their practice.
- Staff encourage pupils to express feelings and emotions using the pupil's preferred method of communication.
- Chewellery, sometimes used in conjunction with a harness. A harness will be used to hold 1 or more chewellry to ensure it is always at hand to fulfil the need to bite and to offer different textures and rigidity, parents must consent to their child wearing a harness.

Staff are aware of children who may bite others and will have plans in place to minimise this, however, for every child there may always be a first time, and biting others may occur unexpectedly. From this time staff will ensure that strategies are put in place to try to prevent any further bites occurring.

Procedures to follow when biting occurs

- The appropriate first aid will be administered. The wound will be cleaned, and an ice pack applied if necessary to help with swelling or bruising.
- We will comfort the child who has been bitten.
- The Senior Leadership Team will be informed in writing via CPOMS, online recording system.
- Both sets of parents / carers will be informed independently of the incident and the actions taken.
- All biting incidents will be dealt with complete confidentiality.
- We will aim to resolve the problem as quickly as possible, having open communication and co-operation is especially important with the parents/staff.
- If the child bites again they will be closely observed, it is important to note that even with close observation, it is not always possible to prevent all bites. All staff are briefed in what to do to best avoid further biting.
- In the event of a child who continues to repeatedly bite, further contact will be made with parents to discuss what else may be done to help the child.
- If the SLT feels they have exhausted all biting procedures consistently and fairly ensuring that it meets the needs of the child, the SLT may need to suggest seeking outside professional help.