WALTHAMSTOW MONTESSORI SCHOOL
Biting Policy

At WMS, we are committed to ensuring the safety, well-being, and emotional development of all the children in our care. Biting is a common behaviour in early childhood, especially in children under 3, but it is taken seriously and addressed promptly and appropriately. We aim to manage biting incidents in a way that supports both the child who bit and the child who was bitten, working closely with families and using a consistent, calm, and developmental approach.

Why Children Bite

Children may bite for several reasons, including:

- Teething or oral stimulation
- Frustration or difficulty expressing feelings
- Seeking attention or space
- Copying others
- Feeling overwhelmed or overstimulated

Biting is often a phase, particularly among toddlers, and usually stops as children develop better communication and self-regulation skills.

Our Approach to Managing Biting

When a biting incident occurs, staff will:

1. Respond immediately and calmly to ensure the safety of all the children.
2. Comfort the child who was bitten, provide appropriate first aid, and record the injury.
3. Address the child who bit in a firm but gentle manner, using simple language (e.g., "Biting hurts. We don't bite.").
4. Remove the child who bit from the situation to allow them to calm down and reflect, as appropriate for their age.
5. Observe and assess the cause of the biting incident to understand triggers or patterns.

Recording and Reporting

- All biting incidents are recorded on an Incident/Accident Form, detailing:
  - Who was involved
  - What happened
  - Where and when it occurred
  - Staff response
  - Any injuries or treatment
- Parents/carers of both children will be informed on the same day, sensitively and confidentially.
- Names of the other child involved will never be disclosed to maintain confidentiality.

Ongoing Support and Prevention

We will:

- Monitor the children involved in biting incidents closely.
- Keep detailed ABC (Antecedent, Behaviour, Consequence) observations if biting becomes frequent.
- Use distraction, redirection, and positive reinforcement.
- Support language development and emotional literacy (e.g., teaching "stop", "no", "I'm angry").
- Offer extra sensory input if needed (e.g., teething rings, chewable toys).
- Review room routines, staffing levels, or environmental factors that may contribute to stress or overstimulation.
- Work in partnership with parents to develop consistent strategies at home and at school.

Persistent Biting

If biting becomes repeated or targeted:

- A Behaviour Support Plan may be put in place.
- A meeting with parents/carers will be arranged to discuss concerns and agree on strategies.
- We may seek guidance from external professionals (e.g. a health visitor, SENCO, behaviour specialist) with parental consent.

Staff Training

All staff receive regular training in:

- Managing challenging behaviour positively
- Child development and emotional regulation
- First aid procedures
- Communicating with parents around sensitive issues

This policy was adopted on 1st September 2025

Date Last Reviewed: 1st September 2026

Date to be reviewed on 1st September 2027