



Saint Michael Episcopal School Biting Policy

One of the principal goals of SMES is to provide a safe and loving environment for all children. However, it is common for a young child to test boundaries or still be in the process of developing their social-emotional skills. A behavior such as biting is an example of this and whether a child is the receiver or the giver of a bite, it can be an upsetting experience for all involved.

Children may bite for several different reasons including experimental biting (cause and effect), sensory seeking, being frustrated in verbally expressing his/her needs or wants, being overly tired, experiencing anxiety by a new or different situation, or simply due to environmental stress.

Whenever a biting incident does occur, it is taken very seriously. Teachers will intervene immediately and follow these steps:

1. Separate the children involved.
2. Assist the child who was bitten by having the nurse assess and clean the area and by providing comfort.
3. Talk with the child who bit and help them understand how their friend feels, explain in an appropriate manner that biting is not acceptable, then reinforce acceptable behaviors.
4. Notify parents of both children about the incident. The names of the children will not be shared to protect their privacy and their family's privacy.

For the Early Childhood Division: (12- 36 months)

If your child bites 2-3 times within a week's period, the teacher will contact the parents to discuss the situation, share solutions and collaborate with words to redirect the behavior, so that the parent-teacher relationship is working together for the success of the child.

For the PreK and Kindergarten Division: (3-6 years)

1st bite (as long as the skin is not broken*)- the child who bit will be given appropriate time to discuss and reflect on their behavior with an adult such as how biting hurts others and about using words instead of teeth.

2nd bite within a period of a month- the child who bit will be sent home for the remainder of the day by the Director. Parents will be asked to discuss/ reinforce that biting is not acceptable.

3rd bite within a month- the child will be sent home for the remainder of the day and the following day. A meeting will be arranged for the parents, teachers, and Head of School to meet to determine an action plan to support the child and prevent undue stress on the other children and the classroom environment.

*Note: If a child bites hard enough to leave a bruise or break the skin, the parent will be notified by the Director of Preschool, and the child will be sent home for the remainder of the day.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date : _____