



**The Acorns**  
Primary and Nursery School

*Mutual respect*

*Equity*

*Inclusivity*

*Love*

# **Tooth brushing Policy**

**March 2024**

**Mission:** Be The Best You Can Be

**Vision:** Providing A World-Class Start To Life

At The Acorns Primary & Nursery School, we are a Rights Respecting School where everyone is welcome - we have No Outsiders. We equip our pupils with the skills and knowledge they need to become positive, global citizens. During their time here, children develop into intrinsically motivated, life-long learners: they understand the value of working hard and they aspire to achieve.

Our pupils leave us with a strong, moral compass, comfortable in their own skin, and knowing their own minds. They are brimming with self-belief and self-worth and are capable of being in respectful, trusting relationships with others in their community.

Throughout their time at The Acorns, we instil the characteristics of effective learning. These allow our pupils to develop into confident, resilient, and independent adults, prepared to succeed in the modern world.

We achieve this vision through our daily mission - Be The Best You Can Be - and by remaining true to our core values of Mutual respect, Equity, Inclusivity and Love.

**Values:**

Mutual respect



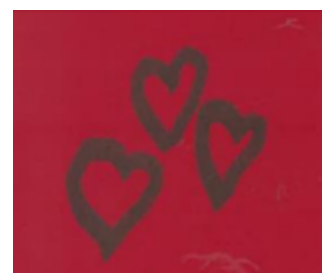
Equity



Inclusivity



Love



This policy sets out clear guidelines on supporting children's needs during supervised tooth brushing.

*EYFS Legal Requirement:*

*3.51 Providers must promote the good health, including the oral health, of the children they look after.*

**Aims:**

- To safeguard the rights and promote the welfare of all children.
- To ensure all children have safe, hygienic and positive tooth brushing experience whilst attending our setting.
- To provide guidance and reassurance to staff who are required to support children with supervised tooth brushing.
- To assure parents/carers that staff are knowledgeable about oral hygiene and that their individual concerns are taken into account.
- To protect children from discrimination, and ensure inclusion for all.

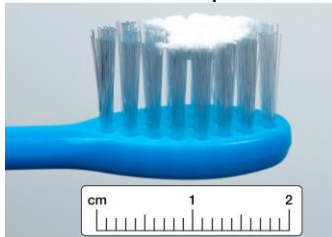
**Starting out**

At the Acorns Primary & Nursery School, we know that young children need help with tooth brushing daily, and that brushing at least twice a day, with a family fluoride toothpaste can help to prevent tooth decay. To support this, a supervised tooth brushing programme has been implemented. Tooth brushing is planned in a fun way using songs and helps to form part of our daily routine. There is a designated lead person, responsible for the toothbrushing programme (EYFS leader) and all staff involved in delivering toothbrushing programmes have received training in toothbrushing and cross-infection procedures.

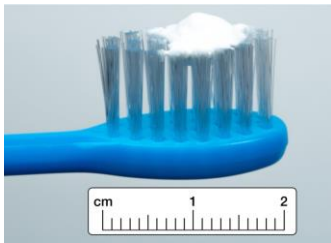
Appropriate arrangements for consent, to take part in the programme, are in place and shared at home visits. Toothbrushing in school should not replace children's tooth brushing routine at home. Children in Caterpillar Class (2 Year Olds) and Butterfly Class (3 Year Olds) take part in this programme.

**Effective Preventative Practice**

- Children use appropriate and effective quantity of toothpaste while minimising cross-contamination.
- Family fluoride toothpaste containing at least 1000 ppm (part per million) fluoride is used.
- A smear of toothpaste should be used for children under the age of 3 years:



- A pea sized amount of toothpaste should be used for children aged 3 years and over:



- Toothpaste is dispensed onto a clean paper towel.
- There is sufficient spacing between the dispensed toothpaste to allow collection without cross-contamination.
- Toothpaste is dispensed at the time the child is ready to brush.
- Only adults dispense toothpaste.
- Toothbrushes are replaced at least once a term, or sooner if required e.g. when bristles become splayed.
- Toothbrushes are individually identifiable for each child.
- Children are always closely supervised when brushing teeth.
- Each child, whether full-time or part time, only brushes once a day whilst in nursery.
- Children are discouraged from swallowing toothpaste, during or after toothbrushing.
- Children are encouraged to spit into a paper towel once finished and bin the tissue immediately.
- After toothbrushing, brushes are rinsed, individually and thoroughly under cold running water and replaced in the storage tooth trains to allow them to air dry. Individual lids are placed over the storage systems (tooth trains).

### **Prevention and Control of Infection**

Toothbrushes are a potential source of infection, hence our storage systems comply with best practice in the prevention of cross contamination.

- Toothbrushes are stored in appropriate storage systems.
- Storage systems enable brushes to stand in the upright position.
- Storage systems allow sufficient distance between toothbrushes so that bristles never touch.
- Storage systems display children's photographs and numbers/symbols to allow for easy identification.
- Storage systems are stored at adult height.
- Good cleaning practice is an integral part of childcare in our nursery settings.
- Gloves should be worn when cleaning storage systems and sinks.
- Storage systems are cleaned, rinsed and dried at least once a week (more if soiled) by a member of staff using warm water and household detergent.
- Care is taken to ensure that toothbrushes do not cross-contaminate when being removed or replaced in storage systems.
- Any toothbrushes dropped on the floor and discarded and replaced immediately.
- Tubes of toothpaste can be cleaned with a damp tissue.

### **Model B – Toothbrushing in Dry Areas**

At the Acorns Primary & Nursery school, we use Model B and only brush teeth in dry areas.

- The supervisor washes their hands before and after the toothbrushing session.
- Children may be seated or stand when brushing teeth.
- After toothbrushing is complete, children spit excess toothpaste into their own paper towel and bin this immediately.
- Toothbrushes are returned to the storage system immediately.