Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School
"Nurturing curiosity and inspiring imagination"



2026-27

Oral Health Policy

DOCUMENT STATUS

Produced By	Version	Date	Action
Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School	1	09.11.26	Approval by school's Teaching and Learning Committee

Legislation

- Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework for Groups and School-Based Providers (September 2025)

Approval

Headteacher

Review Frequency

When any changes are made

Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School

Oral Health Policy

The Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework for groups and school-based providers (Sept 2025) states:

> 'Providers must promote good health, including oral health, of the children they look after' p35

More information can be found by clicking on the links below:

https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/safeguarding-and-welfare/oralhealth

https://communitydentalservices.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/12-Top-tips-for-teeth.pdf

Policy Statement

Our school is committed to promoting the oral health of every child. We recognise that poor oral health is preventable and can impact on a child's ability to learn, thrive and develop.

What Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School does to promote good oral health:

- Provides children with healthy and nutritional snacks
- Encourages parents and carers to provide healthy lunch boxes
- Provides children with fresh drinking water at all times
- Ensures availability of milk for children at snack times
- When appropriate and in consultation with parents and carers, dummies use is discouraged. Nursery offers families the opportunity to send dummies to the dummy fairy and receive a gift
- Bottles with teats are discouraged and, in consultation with parents and carers, alternatives are offered
- Provides information regarding good oral health to parents and carers as part of their consent to the school toothbrushing programme and on the school website
- Supports parents and carers of children with additional needs to access specialist dental treatment for their children from Warrington Community Dental Service based at Bath Street Health and Wellbeing Centre

- Provides activities to help children further extend their development in all areas of learning, eg dentist role play, sharing experiences of visiting the dentist through circle time and discussing how they feel when visiting the dentist

- Practitioners read books on oral health, providing children with an understanding of oral hygiene and routines and information about teeth, this hopefully reassuring the children about going to the dentist. We also explain and show children how much toothpaste needs to be on their brush and use a 2-minute timer when role playing or brushing teeth

- Staff are trained to deliver the toothbrushing programme by a member of the Bridgewater Team; regular monitoring by this team is also conducted and additional training provided as required

- Works closely with parents to overcome barriers surrounding oral health and accessing dentists

Supervised Toothbrushing

Although not a mandatory EYFS requirement, our school chooses to participate in the supervised toothbrushing program:

- Brushing Routine – children brush once daily using a smear (under 3s) or pea-sized amount (3-4 years) of fluoride toothpaste

- Method – children are taught not to rinse to keep the fluoride on their teeth

- Hygiene – each child has a named toothbrush stored in a ventilated rack to prevent cross-contamination

Celebrations

Whilst children are offered a range of healthy food and drink choices on a daily basis at school, there is some flexibility when special events are celebrated, eg, the school Christmas party, Shrove Tuesday. At this time, biscuits, cake and other party type food is offered to the children. We believe that this approach promotes a healthy view of food with no food being forbidden, simply eaten in moderation.

Should parents or carers choose to send in a sweet treat to recognise their child's birthday, these are sent home with the child for the parent/carer to decide if they with their child to have it.

This policy is aligned with the school's Healthy Eating Policy 2025