

Oral Health Protocol



St Peter's Elwick Church of England Primary School

'To give all the opportunity to be who God created them to be and have fullness of life.'

Prepared by: Head of School

Date of Renewal: Autumn 2023

At St Peter's Elwick Church of England Primary School, we know that there are high tooth decay rates in children nationally and that our locality has some of the highest tooth decay rates for under fives in the country. Poor oral health can affect a child's ability to sleep, eat, speak, play and socialise with other children. We see oral health as an integral part of overall health and a contributing factor to school readiness.

St Peter's Elwick CofE Primary School oral health protocol sets out our commitment to providing a high standard of oral health promotion, linking this to education and life skills to promote optimum health in all of our children.

The Staff will ensure the creation of partnerships between the children, parents and other relevant groups so that all those involved in oral health at St Peter's Elwick CofE Primary School have the opportunity to plan, implement deliver and evaluate oral health effectively.

We aim to:

- Provide firm foundations for early oral health through our EYFS toothbrushing scheme supported by the Tees Community Dental Service.
- Ensure children know the importance of good oral health, including dental hygiene through our curriculum.
- Promote a positive attitude towards healthy lifestyle choices.
- Share information with parents and carers around the importance of good oral health including dental hygiene.

Roles and responsibilities

Curriculum Leaders:

The following curriculum leaders have a role to play in promoting good oral health: PSHE and RHE Lead, Science Lead.

They should:

- Work together to ensure that the key knowledge and skills surrounding good oral health are progressively mapped in the St Peter's Elwick school curriculum.
- That teachers are equipped with the necessary resources and knowledge to deliver high-quality education to pupils.
- Monitor standards to ensure that the curriculum aims are being met.

Oral Health Lead:

The appointed Oral Health Lead for St Peter's Elwick CofE Primary is Louise Parks.

They should:

- Ensure consent is gained for participation in the EYFS toothbrushing scheme.
- Liaise with the Oral Health Promotion Team based at North Tees Hospital.
- Ensure all staff in EYFS have the correct training to deliver the EYFS toothbrushing scheme safely and efficiently.
- Ensure systems are in place to ensure that toothbrushing is carried out following government and Oral Health Promotion Team guidance and that it is carried out once per day in an efficient manner.
- Share information with parents to promote good oral health.
- Reporting on the effectiveness of the programme to the Head of School and, where required, the Local Governing Body.

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering oral health education, following the St Peter's Elwick curriculum mapping and strand progression document, that is engaging and inclusive.
- Promoting positive attitudes to oral health

EYFS Toothbrushing Scheme

EYFS pupils will take part in the toothbrushing scheme run by the Oral Health Promotion Team at North Tees Hospital. Parental consent will be gained for each child. The Head of School, Oral Health Lead and EYFS staff will receive training on the scheme, including how to run it safely and efficiently. EYFS staff with oversight from the Oral Health Lead will ensure that the correct procedures from the training are followed, including procedures to minimise cross-infection (Appendix A) and ensuring compliance with the 'COVID 19: guidance for supervised toothbrushing programmes in early years and school setting' document available at gov.uk

Tooth brushing resources are provided by the Tees Community Dental Service Oral Health Promotion Department subject to funding and consists of storage racks, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

**NHS Guidance on Tooth Brushing in School Settings
(provided by Oral Health Protection Team at North Tees Hospital)**

- The setting will have a nominated oral health lead person responsible for liaising with the Oral Health Promotion Department, and ensuring the effective delivery of the scheme.
- All staff involved in the tooth brushing scheme will be suitably trained, training will take place on an annual basis. This will be recorded and monitored.
- All parents will be made aware of the scheme in order to give consent
- Tooth brushing will take place in a suitable environment in line with infection control guidelines.
- All children are supervised whilst brushing.
- Toothbrushes will be rinsed individually after each session by the child/member of staff. If by the child, this should be supervised.
- Storage racks will be maintained, and cleaned on a regular basis in-line with cross infection control.
- Every child will have their own identifiable toothbrush. (appendix C)
- A fluoride toothpaste will be used which contains the current recommended level of Fluoride.
- Every child will use toothpaste which has been dispensed in-line with infection control guidance. (appendix D, E & F)
- A pea sized amount of fluoride toothpaste will be dispensed for over 3 years and smear for under 3 years by the supporting staff. Staff will use toothpaste administering sheets provided by the Oral Health Protection Team to ensure the correct amount is provided.
- Children will be encouraged to spit out excess paste and NOT swallow paste.
- Toothbrushes will be replaced every three months or sooner if required, when bristles become splayed, are dropped on the floor or used by a child with a contagious infection. (appendix F)
- Staff will wash hands before and after each brushing session.
- Toothbrushes will be stored in an upright position, out of reach of children, away from toileting facilities and left to air dry when not in use.
- Storage equipment will be washed weekly, and replaced if cracked, scratched or rough surfaces appear.
- A representative from OHPD will observe the setting quarterly to ensure compliance to standards.

Monitoring and Review:

- This protocol will be reviewed on an annual basis