

# The Meadows School



## Mouthing - Safe Systems of Working

Review and Update every 12 months

Updated:

March 2019

Waiting to be ratified by Governing Body

Review:

March 2020

Nominated Member of Leadership Staff Responsible for the policy: Helen Rose, Assistant Head Teacher.

**Rationale:**

Mouthing non-food objects is essential for sensory exploration of taste, touch and smell as well as assisting with the development of oral motor skills necessary for eating and speaking. The nature of the students at The Meadows School and their consequent developmental levels means we are likely to encounter students who mouth objects in order to investigate them. Mouthing may stem purely from the need to obtain sensory input in the mouth, but can also be a self-regulation tool when experiencing anxiety or stress. Developmental needs should be facilitated alongside safe and hygienic practice when mouthing occurs, it is essential that we manage the classroom environment in order to eliminate as far as is reasonably possible, risk of students swallowing or chewing pieces from objects.

**Aims:**

To facilitate appropriate sensory exploration through mouthing, applying safe and hygienic practice through:

- Appropriate supervision
- Suitable resourcing
- Best practice for individual pupil needs
- Satisfactory hygiene

**Practice Guidelines:**

Please read and adhere to the following guidance and use professional judgement.

Supervision	Resourcing	Pupil Needs	Hygiene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Students should have 1:1 supervision when handling small objects</li> <li>➤ Any small objects being used in a lesson should be limited to one at a time if the student is likely to mouth them.</li> <li>➤ A designated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Staff should check number of objects in use at start and end of lesson are the same.</li> <li>➤ Objects such as shells (even pasta shells) do not have air holes, if swallowed can result in a complete blockage of the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Be aware of pupils who habitually or routinely mouth objects by checking the individual pupil details attached to this policy</li> <li>➤ Details of new or emerging mouthing tendencies should be passed to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mouthed objects should be removed after use and cleaned and sterilised before classroom use again</li> <li>➤ Objects that can appear on the floor in rooms such as</li> </ul>

<p>member of staff will then remain fully aware of where the object is at all times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure that small objects are stored out of reach to avoid unsupervised mouthing</li> </ul>	<p>air passage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All small objects need to be checked and considered carefully before being used in class.</li> <li>➤ Students who bite or chew objects may take pieces out of some, such as a sponge dice or pieces of thinner plastic. Close supervision will be necessary with these kinds of materials</li> <li>➤ Never have polystyrene in class – if swallowed it does not appear on X-Rays.</li> <li>➤ Extra care must be taken when using balloons in lessons, being mindful that they present a choking risk.</li> <li>➤ Ensure that objects used with pupils are non- toxic, e.g. glue sticks</li> </ul>	<p>relevant key stage leaders, to ensure that pupil information and practice is current.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Students should not be given objects to mouth as a reward</li> <li>➤ Never give students with Cerebral Palsy a glass, thin plastic spoon, or other object which can easily snap in their teeth should they have a spasm.</li> <li>➤ Never allow metal spoons to be mouthed, as in spasm this may damage their teeth</li> <li>➤ Occupational Therapists will advise on individual pupils regularly using 'chewy' aids</li> </ul>	<p>disused staples etc. should be disposed of immediately.</p>
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Group	Students
3:1	None
3:2	Ethan Graham Manish Samra Fayzan Iqbal Taran Mall
3:3	Manveer Mattu
3:4	Mehd Elahi Brandon White
4:1	Hamejato Kanteh- Sinera Connor Womack Sami Khan Junayd Ali
4:2	Terence McDonagh
5:1	Maisy Hawkins Bradley Lewis Britney-Anne Stevens
5:2	Anas Ahmed Deshaun Akibo-Betts- Gordon Kamran Javid

Group	Students
3:5	Adam Hussain Isam Khan Jace Khan Jorawar Lally Jason Mallin Charlie Low Aaron Ababogye
3:6	Amina Hussain Abigail McEvoy Lara Tonks
3:7	None
3:8	Mahfuj Ahmed Damian Roberts Mohammed Yahyaa
4:3	Rebecca Marston Jawairia Pervez Yusuf Raffi
4:4	Sahil Tariq
5:3	Hannah Barrett Arjan Gill Aleemah Majid
5:4	Karanjit Sandhu