



## Use of Oral Sensory Aids (Chew Toys) Guidance

### 1. Purpose

This appendix outlines the school's approach to the use of oral sensory aids (chew toys) to support pupils with identified sensory regulation needs.

The school recognises that some pupils require reasonable adjustments to access learning and regulate effectively. The use of an oral sensory aid may form part of this graduated response.

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### 2. Rationale

Some pupils may demonstrate oral sensory seeking behaviours, including chewing clothing, pencils, or fingers. An appropriate chew aid may:

- Support self-regulation
- Improve focus and engagement
- Reduce unsafe or inappropriate chewing
- Protect clothing and school equipment

Provision is based on identified need and is not dependent upon a formal diagnosis. Oral sensory needs may be associated with:

- Autism spectrum disorder
  - Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
  - Sensory processing disorder
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### 3. Authorisation and Recording

The use of a chew aid must:

- Be agreed by the Class Teacher and SENCo

- Be discussed with parents/carers
- Be recorded within the pupil's SEN tracker or EHCP (where applicable)

Use will be reviewed termly or sooner if concerns arise.

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## **4. Expectations for Use**

- Chew aids must be specifically designed for oral sensory use (food-grade silicone; no detachable parts).
  - Items are for individual use only and must not be shared.
  - Use should support learning and not cause distraction.
  - Staff may direct when the item should be stored if it is no longer required at that time.
  - There will be agreed times of use to prevent detrimental implications to oral health.
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## **5. Health and Safety**

- All items must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name.
- School staff are responsible for regular cleaning and replacement unless otherwise agreed.
- Staff will monitor items for visible damage.
- Any item that is split, cracked, or presents a choking risk must be removed immediately.

Where necessary, a risk assessment will be completed.

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## **6. Equality and Inclusion**

The use of oral sensory aids is considered a reasonable adjustment in line with the Equality Act 2010. The school is committed to ensuring pupils who require sensory supports are treated with dignity and are not disadvantaged.