

Lytham Church of England Primary School



EYFS Choking Prevention and Response Policy

To inspire everyone in our school family to be the best they can be within our caring Christian community.

Our strap line is, 'Together We Grow With God'.

Policy Statement

At Lytham C of E Primary we are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children. This policy outlines our procedures for preventing and responding to choking incidents in line with the EYFS statutory framework and Lancashire County Council guidance.

Aims

- To minimise the risk of choking during mealtimes and play.
- To ensure all staff are trained to respond appropriately in the event of a choking incident.
- To promote safe eating and play practices.

Prevention Measures

Supervision

- EYFS children are always supervised within sight and hearing during meals and snack times.
- EYFS staff are vigilant and seated at the same level as children during eating both at snack times and at lunch times

Food Preparation

- High-risk foods are avoided for under-5s (e.g., popcorn, marshmallows, whole grapes, jelly cubes).
- Foods are prepared safely:
 - Grapes, cherry tomatoes, strawberries: cut lengthways and into quarters.
 - Sausages and cheese: cut into thin strips.
 - Bread and crackers: cut into manageable pieces.

Small Object Safety

- Toys and materials are age-appropriate and regularly checked for small parts.
- Items smaller than a 2p coin are kept out of reach of children under 3.

Staff Training

- All EYFS staff are trained in paediatric first aid and know how to respond to choking.
- Training is refreshed every 3 years or sooner if needed.

Emergency Procedure

If a child is choking:

1. Assess whether the child can cough or speak.
2. If not:
 - Deliver up to 5 back blows between the shoulder blades.
 - If ineffective, deliver up to 5 abdominal thrusts (for children over 1 year).
3. Call emergency services (999) if the object does not dislodge.
4. Inform parents/carers immediately.
5. Complete an incident report and review risk assessments.

Monitoring and Review

- This policy is reviewed annually or following any choking incident.
- Staff are encouraged to report any concerns or near-misses.

Signed: Miss V Harter

Date: August 2026

Review Date: September 2027

Agreed by Governors: September 2026