



Muslim National School
Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave

19 Roebuck Road
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Procedure for professionally dealing with the child with defiant/attention seeking misbehaviour

Sometimes a child resorts to extreme behaviour or attention seeking actions. This usually reflects a need for attention or notice or recognition of their uncomfortable/unfamiliar situation.

Examples of this include:-

- The child who bites at play school, home or school.
- The toddler/infant who pulls hair.
- The child who screams an obscenity, who pulls down his trousers or who exposes himself.

The intended 'victim' is usually taken by surprise and reacts with a surprising shriek/startle/shock expression.

Results:-

- Immediate control of the scene by the child, immediate attention, deflection from the lesson/task in hand.
- Transfer of 'power' control to the child.

How to respond:-

- You are the adult in the equation.
- Your response must be one of controlled reaction.
- Engage with child on their eye level.
- Take them away from the hurt child/other children.
- Adult voice tone pitch.

Volume is key to the effective control of the situation.

Adult should use lower voice tone; speak clearly, firmly without displaying any emotional reaction. The adult voice must be lower, more clear and spoken more slowly than child's.

The Adult is the one in control.

Re establishing the ground rules:-

- Biting is unkind.
- Hitting hurts another child.
- Screaming hurts my ears.

Positive re enforcement:-

- I like it when you use your quiet voice.
- I like to see kind hands.
- I like it when you respect the rules about wearing your clothes properly.

Adults must not allow themselves become destabilised/emotionally involved. If so then one must reflect on why/how the child's actions can cause you the adult to lose composure.



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This Document was approved by the Board of Management at its meeting on 30th January, 2025

Signed: 2 21 Tawash
Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: 30/01/2025

Signed: John O'Donnell
School Principal

Date: 30/01/2025