

# Story of Improvement

## Dental Hygiene

### Healthier behaviour outcome:

Increase in the number of children/young people who understand how to take care of their teeth.



Finlay Community School

ASPIRE BELONG ACHIEVE



“You have to brush your teeth for 2 minutes.”

### Why was this intervention chosen?

Our Pupil Welfare Survey data showed us that 79% brushed teeth twice a day or more, which was in line with the county average of 78%. However, at Finlay Community School, we have a number of pupils who have had to have teeth removed due to poor dental hygiene.

When we asked pupils in Reception, who brushed their teeth twice a day, 20 out of 60 pupils put their hands up. 30 pupils reported brushing their teeth once a day, and 10 pupils reported not at all.

Therefore, we decided to carry out this intervention with our 60 Reception pupils. Our target pupils were the 30 children who reported only brushing their teeth once a day and the 10 children who reported that they did not brush their teeth.

### Intervention work carried out:

Within the new EYFS framework, it discusses the importance of oral hygiene, and teaching positive oral hygiene. We completed some training as a staff team on teaching oral hygiene in EYFS and looked at examples of best practice.

The decision was made to purchase toothbrushes for all pupils and practice oral hygiene as part of the daily curriculum. All pupils now brush their teeth once during the school day, focussing on how to do this effectively.

### How has this intervention impacted the children?

The intervention has positively impacted on the pupil group, with all children participating in daily tooth brushing.

45 pupils now report brushing their teeth twice a day and 15 pupils report brushing their teeth once a day.

All pupils have access to tooth brushing in school so there are not any pupils who do not brush their teeth at all.



“We brush our teeth two times a day: morning and night.”

### Next steps as a result of the intervention:

- Continue with daily tooth brushing in school.
- Offer a parent workshop on the importance of tooth brushing with a local dentist.
- Arrange for a dental visit for pupils.

“We have to visit the dentist to check our teeth.”

“You have to make sure you clean the back teeth too!”