

Staff Guidance

DENTAL EMERGENCIES

While most instances of cracked or broken teeth are not serious, a dental check-up is necessary to ensure no underlying damage has occurred.

Some signs may indicate urgent attention is needed:

- ! Sudden pain after an impact
- ! Significant bleeding
- ! A visible chip or fracture
- ! Holding their mouth or face
- ! Sensitivity to hot, cold, or air
- ! Reluctance to speak or eat

In emergencies, taking practical steps can make a real difference for the child, helping to reduce anxiety and prevent further injury.

- 1. Stay calm and reassure:** A calm presence helps pupils feel safe and cooperate.
- 2. Assess the situation:** Check for bleeding and swelling, look for visible damage like chipped, broken, or knocked-out teeth and ask about pain, sensitivity, or difficulty eating.
- 3. Provide immediate care if needed:** If applicable, offer a clean cloth or gauze to bite on and/or apply a cold compress to reduce swelling. Allow rinsing the mouth with lukewarm water if needed.
- 4. Notify parents/carers:** Even minor-looking injuries should be reported. Early professional assessment prevents further complications.
- 5. Follow your school's health and medication policies at all times**
- 6. Keep resources handy:** Keep a list of local dentists and emergency dental services for quick access.