

A Functional Appliance

- +** **What is it?**
A functional appliance is used to treat young children and teenagers with teeth that stick-out. It is important to correct a large protrusion to minimise the risk of a traumatic injury to the upper front teeth.
- ?** **How is it made?**
An impression of the top and bottom teeth and a bite registration is taken in the clinic. This is then sent over to the Orthodontic laboratory and the functional appliance is custom-made by a qualified technician.
- ?** **How does it work?**
It works by pushing on the teeth, with a gentle force that is created when placing it in the mouth and closing the teeth together.
- ?** **How much is it worn?**
It is usually worn during the day and at night. It is easily inserted and removed for cleaning and meals and for physical activities.
- ?** **Does it hurt?**
Teeth are sore when they start moving. This tenderness or pain usually lasts for about ten days. Most patients cope well with this pain. Sometimes the appliance rubs against the gum and this may lead to an ulcer or sore. The appliance will have to be adjusted to ease the pressure and the sore spot will disappear. Please call our receptionist and book an appointment to see us.
- ?** **How is it cleaned?**
It is important that you clean the appliance before going to sleep and in the morning. Brush the appliance inside and out using a normal toothbrush and soap water. Place the appliance daily in a cup with warm water and a Retainer Bright tablet that can be purchased at or reception.
- ?** **How is it stored?**
When out of the mouth please place it in a retainer box that can be purchased at or reception. This will prevent it from potential damage. Place a label on the box with your name and telephone number in case it is lost.
- ?** **What if it's lost or broken?**
Please book an appointment to come in and have it repaired or replaced. The receptionist will advise you if a charge will apply.

