

## Dog mauls boy in street attack

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A SEVEN-year-old boy is recovering from serious hand and face injuries after being mauled by a dog outside a fish and chip shop.

Kieran Rogers was with his mum Sharleen at the time of the attack near the Codfather fast food shop in Merthyr Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

The pair had walked the short distance from their home for a bag of chips when Kieran spotted the dog, a Japanese Akita, being held on a lead by another small boy.

He bent down to pat the animal, but it went for him and started a terrifying attack.

Mum Sharleen Rogers-Allen, 27, who, also has a daughter, Naomi, 10, said: "It all happened so fast.

"Kieran asked the boy if he could stroke the dog and he said yes.

"All of a sudden it leapt up and started to bite my son – he didn't have a chance to react.

"Everyone standing around tried to pull the dog off and I called an ambulance immediately."

Kieran, a pupil at Hawthorn Junior School, suffered puncture wounds to his right arm, left hand and right cheek where the dog had bitten clean through, in the attack at about 5.30pm last Tuesday.

The Japanese Akita is known as a particularly powerful animal and has been bred to hunt bears.

Kieran was taken to the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff where he spent the night and

had an operation on his hand.

"Surely this animal should have been muzzled?" said Sharleen.

"The police told me they would be contacting the owner, requesting the dog be put down."

The injuries forced him to miss the last three days of school.

"Luckily, Kieran didn't miss the Christmas school play because that was the week before – he played a cat," said Sharleen.

"His friends in class sent home get well cards signed by everyone so that cheered him up."

A spokesman for South Wales Police confirmed the incident was being investigated.

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