



Nursery Dummies Policy

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Review Date:	27/04/2027
Type of Policy:	School

Revision Number	Date Issued	Prepared by	Approved	Comments
1	27.04.26	LE	27.04.26	New policy for new nursery

<i>Type of Policy</i>	<i>Tick ✓</i>
DCAT Statutory Policy	
DCAT Non-statutory Policy	
DCAT Model Optional Policy	
Academy Policy	✓
Local Authority Policy	

1. Introduction

At Little Common School Nursery, we follow guidance from the Lullaby Trust, which states that using a dummy may help reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) when used consistently for every sleep, day and night.

We recognise that a dummy can offer comfort for a child who is settling or upset, and that it may form part of a child's sleep routine.

However, we are also aware that overuse of dummies can affect speech and language development, as it may restrict the mouth movements needed for speech. Babies and young children use their mouths to explore sound, practise vocalisations, and develop communication skills. Children who use dummies throughout the day may make fewer sounds, have less opportunity to use their voices, and hear less language from adults.

Parents are encouraged to begin weaning their baby off a dummy between 6–12 months.

2. Role of Nursery

To support healthy speech and language development, Little Common School Nursery will:

- Discuss dummy use with parents as part of each child's individual care plan.
- Allow dummies only as part of their sleep routine.
- Store all dummies with the child's belongings to prevent cross-contamination.
- Not use a dummy that has fallen on the floor or been handled by another child.
- Dispose of any damaged dummies.

When discouraging dummy use, staff will:

- Show the child where their dummy is stored.
- Comfort and reassure the child, explaining sensitively why they do not need their dummy at that moment.
- Provide distraction, engaging activities, and ensure they are emotionally settled.
- Offer suitable alternative comfort options.
- Explain clearly that their dummy is available at home or during sleep time.

3. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if national guidance changes.