



**BROUGHTON MANOR
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

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Policy reviewed by: Viv Thompson Director of Education & Safeguarding

Signature: *Viv Thompson*

Version: v9.0

Policy actioned from: 1st September 2026 **Review date:** 08.2027

Please note: 'Provider' refers to Chatsworth Schools; Nursery or Setting refers to the nursery & 'parents' refers to parents, guardians and carers.

POLICY AMENDMENT

Date	Key Amendments	Version Number	Reviewed by
01/09/24	Policy approved for Nurseries	v7.0	VT
01/09/25	Policy reviewed	v8.0	VT
01/09/26	Policy reviewed	v9.0	VT

Use of Dummies in Nursery Policy

At our nursery we recognise that a dummy can be a source of comfort for a child who is settling and/or upset, and that it may often form part of a child's sleep routine.

We also recognise that overuse of dummies may affect a child's language development as it may restrict the mouth movements needed for speech. As babies get older, they need to learn to move their mouths in different ways, to smile, to blow bubbles, to make sounds, to chew food and eventually to talk. As babies move their mouths and experiment with babbling sounds, they are learning to make the quick mouth movements needed for speech. The more practice they get the better their awareness of their mouths and the better their speech will be.

Our nursery will:

- Discuss the use of dummies with parents as part of babies' individual care plans
- Only allow dummies for comfort if a child is really upset (for example, if they are new to the setting or going through a transition) and/or as part of their sleep routine
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes or sealed bags, labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Immediately clean or sterilise any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child.
- Dummies will be disposed of if they become damaged and/or when they are required to be disposed of.

When discouraging the dummy, staff will:

- Make each child aware of a designated place where the dummy is stored
- Comfort the child and, if appropriate, explain in a sensitive manner why they do not need their dummy
- Distract the child with other activities and ensure they are settled before leaving them to play
- Offer other methods of comfort such as a toy, teddy or blanket
- Explain to the child they can have their dummy when they go home or at sleep time.

We will also offer support and advice to parents to discourage dummy use during waking hours at home and suggest ways which the child can be weaned off their dummy through books and stories (when appropriate).

The Ofsted video [Safer Sleep in Early Years Settings Q&A - Foundation Years](#) states that a dummy is not a comforter and there are no plans to change the use of dummies, hence we will use as needed but with an awareness of the need for them to be temporary and only used when necessary for settling.

Interpretation

In this policy, the term "senior manager" means the Nursery Manager and their designated deputies.

This policy applies within all companies, which are wholly owned subsidiaries of Chatsworth Schools Ltd, a company registered in England, registered number 11552579.

The registered office of all companies is St Botolph Building, 138 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7AR. Any enquiries regarding the application of this policy should be sent to the above address.