



One Excellence
Multi Academy Trust

Dummy Policy

Our Mission

“Together we work as one family to ensure excellence for all.”

Our Vision

To be an ambitious, inclusive, collaborative family of schools, ensuring fullness of life and excellence in education, whilst celebrating individuality.

Policy Reviewed and Adopted by Board of Directors:	Autumn Term 2025
Date of Next Review:	Autumn Term 2026
Responsible Officer:	Lindsey Vollans

Purpose

This policy outlines our approach to the use of dummies (pacifiers) in our Early Years settings. While we recognise that dummies can provide comfort to young children, we also acknowledge the potential impact on speech, language, and emotional development if used inappropriately or for prolonged periods.

Our Position on Dummy Use

- We understand that some children arrive at the setting with a dummy as part of their home routine.
- Our approach is to work **in partnership with parents/carers** to gradually reduce and eventually phase out dummy use during the day.

Guidelines

1. Settling and Comfort:

- Dummies may be used during the settling-in period or at times of high emotional need (e.g., drop-off or nap time), where this helps the child feel secure.
- They will be removed once the child is calm and engaged in play or learning activities.

2. Speech and Language Development:

- Children are encouraged to communicate using words and gestures.
- Dummies are removed during all active learning, group time, meal/snack times, and conversations, as they can hinder:
 - Clarity of speech
 - Reduced vocalisation
 - Social interaction
 - Development of vocabulary
 - Problems with teeth alignment and oral motor skills

3. Hygiene and Storage:

- Dummies are clearly labelled and stored in individual, hygienic containers when not in use.
- They are not shared between children under any circumstances.

4. Support for Phasing Out:

- Staff work with families to support children in gradually reducing dependence on dummies, especially beyond the age of 2–3 years.
- We offer emotional support and comfort in other ways, such as through cuddles, familiar objects, or calming routines.

Working with Parents and Carers

We respect each family's individual approach and seek to:

- Communicate openly and sensitively.
- Share evidence and guidance on best practices.
- Support a consistent strategy between home and school.

I, the undersigned parent/guardian of
do hereby state that I have read and received a copy of the nursery dummy policy and that my child's key person or the nursery teacher has discussed the policy with me.

Child's Date of Admission

Parent/Guardian

Date