

## **PARK SCHOOL NURSERY –DUMMIES AND THEIR USE POLICY**

Children at Park School Nursery may use a dummy to comfort them when they are tired, sleeping or upset. Some research suggests that using a dummy when a baby is sleeping could reduce the risk of SIDS ([lullabytrust.org.uk](http://lullabytrust.org.uk)). Although a dummy can provide comfort, they can also impact speech development. We recognise dummies can be purposeful, research suggests that children over the age of one do not need a dummy and therefore nursery staff in partnership with parents will strive to achieve this, with the child's best interests at heart. However, this will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

### **1. THE USE OF DUMMIES**

- 1.1 During the settling-in process, staff will discuss individual children's needs in reference to dummies.
- 1.2 Follow the parents' wishes with regards to dummies, however staff will aim to keep dummy use to a minimum.
- 1.3 Parents will supply dummies and a labelled storage box for each of their child's days, to be kept in the child's bag/their nursery box.

If using a dummy strap, this must be on a breakaway cord. These will be removed for sleep time and certain activities.

### **2. THE PHASING OUT OF DUMMY USE**

- 2.1 Staff to liaise with parents to discuss the reduction of dummy usage.
- 2.2 Staff will use distraction techniques to soothe and comfort a child.
- 2.3 Staff will encourage the children to only use dummies at sleep times (leading to this also stopping).
- 2.4 If the child is old enough to understand, we will involve them in the process.
- 2.5 Use child friendly language and positive reinforcement with the child to help encourage and support.