



Infant Feeding Policy 2026-2027

The children's individual needs will be discussed with parents to ensure that they are met. Feeds will be prepared as and when they are required by the babies and not as part of the nursery routine.

Breast Milk Policy

Little school has put into place a Policy and associated Procedures to detail those arrangements necessary for the safe storage and use of breast milk.

Containers

- Breast milk should be brought to Little School in a sterilized bottle or in a sterile breast milk bag, suitable for the purpose of refrigerated storage and clearly marked with the infant's full name
- Bottles will be returned to parents/carers at the end of each day. The containers will be washed but not sterilized.
- Parents must ensure that the container is sterilized before re-use.

Storage

Breast milk should be provided on a daily basis, unused milk will be discarded at the end of each feed.

General Handling

Little School staff will ensure that the following Policy is strictly adhered to:

- Breast milk is to be kept sterile at all times
- DO NOT leave breast milk at room temperature for more than 1 hour
- DO NOT heat breast milk on the stove or in the microwave

Little School Breast Milk Procedures

The following procedures are to be used by all staff handling, storing or using breast milk to feed an infant.

On Delivery:

- Ensure that the parent has provided the breast milk in an airtight bottle clearly marked with the child's name and dated.
- Breast milk is to be placed at the back of the fridge where it is the coolest prior to feeding an infant with breast milk.

- Before feeding an infant with breast milk, ensure that a positive identification of the child is made, the date is checked and the correct breast milk is fed to the correct child.

Warming Breast Milk

- Breast milk is to be warmed to a suitable body temperature to take the 'edge' off the milk by placing it in a bottle warmer.
- The milk is then to be checked for temperature to ensure that the milk is cool enough for the baby to drink.
- Never heat breast milk on the stove or in the microwave.

Feeding an Infant with Breast Milk

- Feed the baby as normal using a suitable bottle and teat
- Ensure that the baby is 'winded' correctly.

After feeding an infant with Breast Milk

- Unused breast milk (in that bottle) is to be discarded after 1 hour
- Record feed time and amount taken by the infant
- After final feed or at the end of the day discard all unused breast milk stored for that child

Hygiene

Breast milk is a bodily fluid, which carries with it a (small) risk of infection and/or disease.

Little School Policy is to advise staff handling or carrying out the feeding of breast milk to protect themselves against the risks of infection by;

- Implementing good hygiene practices
- Avoiding actual contact with the breast milk
- Only employees who have undertaken training by management will undertake feed preparation duties

Formula Milk Policy

Those parents whom have requested their child to have formula milk at nursery must:

- Provide suitable ready-made carton of formula milk which is named, along with a suitably named bottle.
- Provide enough sterilised bottles and cartons of milk for the number of feeds required during the day. Bottles will not be reused.
- The Formula Milk carton will be warmed, if needed, as advised on the carton itself.

Formula Milk Procedures

The following procedures are to be used by all staff, handling, storing or using formula milk to feed a baby:

- On delivery ensure that the parent has provided a carton of formula milk and a pre-sterilised bottle clearly marked with the baby's name
- Before feeding a child with formula milk, ensure that a positive identification of the baby is made, and the correct formula milk is fed to the correct baby

To prepare a baby's formula milk staff must:

- Follow the warming instructions on the carton
- Use a clean bottle

Feeding a baby with Formula Milk

- Feed the baby as normal using their bottle and teat
- Ensure that the baby is 'winded' correctly

After feeding a baby with Formula Milk

- Discard any milk that has not been used within 1 hour
- Record feed time and amount taken by the baby

Staff Responsibilities

- Staff will follow the correct procedures for handling either formula or breast milk and will adhere to both Food Hygiene standards and Health and Safety guidelines.
- Staff will adhere to this policy and its procedures.
- Staff will record the amount of formula or breast milk consumed by the baby in the baby's diary so that the parent can be informed of the child's intake for that day.
- During a feed, babies will never be left unsupervised. A member of staff (if possible their key person) should hold the baby and sit on the armchair.
- Staff are not required to wear gloves or aprons when feeding bottles to babies as it is important to make them feel comfortable and to feed them in a 'home like' environment.

Date reviewed: January 2026

Next review date: January 2027

To be reviewed by: Nursery Manager