USE OF DUMMIES IN NURSERY

Outstanding outcomes for children:

The best for everyone to get the best from everyone
Knowledge to Empower
Education with ambition
Leadership at Every Level
Continuous Improvement

USE OF DUMMIES IN NURSERY

At Great Oldbury Little Learners we recognise that a dummy can be a source of comfort for a child who is settling and/or upset. 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 and young children 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 children's 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)
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes provided by parents, labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Immediately clean any dummy that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child.

WHEN DISCOURAGING THE DUMMY STAFF WILL:

- Make each child aware of a designated place where the dummy is stored
- Comfort the child and, if age/stage appropriate, explain in a sensitive and appropriate 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

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).

This policy was adopted on	**Signed on behalf of the nursery**	**Date for review**