



SLEEP POLICY FOR EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE



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Next review	April 2027	

PURPOSE

At Brackenfield Nursery we aim to ensure that all children have enough sleep to support their development and natural sleeping rhythms in a safe environment. The safety of babies' sleeping is paramount.

Our policy follows the advice provided by The Cot Death Society and Lullaby Trust to minimise the risk of Sudden Infant Death.

We make sure that:

- Young children are placed on their side, back or front (reference: sleep foundation.org)
- Children are never put down to sleep with a bottle to self-feed
- Sleeping children are monitored visually when sleeping
- When monitoring, the staff member looks for the rise and fall of the chest and if the sleep position has changed
- If a child arrives at school asleep and they are unrousable they will not be accepted into the Nursery or school

We provide a safe sleeping environment by:

- Monitoring the room temperature
- Using clean, light bedding/blankets and ensuring children are appropriately dressed for sleep to avoid overheating
- Only using safety-approved cot beds or other suitable sleeping equipment (i.e. pods or mats) that are compliant with British Standard regulations, and mattress covers are used in conjunction with a clean fitted sheet
- Not using cot bumpers or cluttering cots with soft toys, although comforters will be given where required.
- Keeping all spaces around cots and beds clear from hanging objects i.e. hanging cords, blind cords, drawstring bags
- Ensuring every child is provided with clean bedding
- Transferring any child who falls asleep while being comforted by a practitioner to a safe sleeping surface to complete their rest
- Having a no smoking policy

We ask parents to complete sheets on their child's sleeping routine with the Nursery Manger/Room Supervisor when the child starts at nursery and these are reviewed and updated at timely intervals.

We recognise parents' knowledge of their child with regard to sleep routines and will, where possible, work together to ensure each child's individual sleep routines and well-being continues to be met. However, staff will not force a child to sleep or keep them awake against his or her will. They will also not usually wake children from their sleep unless written permission is given and only if the child cooperates in a safe manner. Staff will discuss any changes in sleep routines at the end of the day and share observations and information about children's behaviour when they do not receive enough sleep.

Sleeping twins

We follow the advice from The Lullaby Trust regarding sleeping twins.

Name of policy Sleep Policy	Policy reviewed/amended date January 2024 (V1) November 2024 (V2) December 2025 (V3) April 2026 (V4)
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