



Breast feeding & Infant Milk Policy 2026-2027

Policy Date: May 2026

Approved by: Full Governing Body – May 2026

Next review date: May 2027

At Acorn Nursery (Part of Holsworthy CofE Primary School) our vision is working together, growing together, all to flourish. Based on the bible verse from John 15:5, we believe that God is the vine; God is love. Our Christian vision and values help us foster positive relationships between pupils and between staff and pupils.

Introduction

Acorn Nursery is a breastfeeding friendly setting. We aim to provide clear and impartial information to enable mothers of babies attending the setting to continue to breastfeed/provide expressed breastmilk whilst your child attends the Centre.

We are fully supportive of individual choice in the method of infant feeding and aim to support this. If you are bottle feeding your baby when they start with us, we will ask you to provide formula milk so we can continue using the same brand and variety to your child.

Parents are invited in to the setting to breastfeed their baby, should they wish. This can take place in the parent meeting room, or within the baby room, as long as the parent is willing to complete a DBS through the school.

Storage and use of expressed breastmilk in the Centre:

- There are 3 fridges within our Early Years unit where expressed breastmilk can be stored with a temperature set to 5 degrees centigrade or below.
- Breastmilk may not always be white in colour. A blue, pink or yellow hue is normal and does not indicate a problem with the milk.
- Breastmilk must be stored in the main body of the fridge and not the door.
- Breastmilk must be used in date order.
- When stored, the cream and the milk may separate out- this is only when the EBM has been defrosted and is normal, shaking the bottle to mix is necessary.
- The team will ensure all feeding items, preparation items and workstations are disinfected and sterilised accordingly.
- Breastmilk will be reheated by standing the bottle in hot water.
- We do not have freezer facilities to store frozen breastmilk, therefore, any frozen Breastmilk brought from home must be defrosted in one of our fridges and used on the same day.
- Once a baby has drunk from a bottle of breastmilk it should be used within 1 hour and any unused milk must be disposed of after the feed.

Responsibilities of the Parent/Carer:

- Breastmilk must be prepared and stored under the correct conditions for the safety and health of your child. Please follow the NHS link in this policy which details information about breastfeeding, expressing and storing breastmilk and feeding your baby.
- Breastmilk must be handled and stored carefully to reduce cross infection. This includes always washing your hands before you express or handle breastmilk.
- Breastmilk should be brought into the setting in appropriate sterilised bottles/container/plastic milk storage bags which must be clearly labelled with the following:

- Mother's name
- Child's name
- Date and time expressed
- If frozen, date the EBM was removed from the freezer.

Storing expressed breastmilk in your home:

- You can store breastmilk in a sterilised container or in special breast milk storage bags and put in the fridge for up to 8 days at 5C or lower. If you are not sure of the temperature of your fridge, or it is higher than 5C, use the breastmilk within 3 days.
- Put the breastmilk in the ice compartment of a fridge for 2 weeks.
- Put the breastmilk in a freezer, if it is -18C or lower for up to 6 months.
- Breastmilk that's been cooled in the fridge can be carried in a cool bag with ice packs for up to 24 hours.
- Storing breastmilk in small quantities will help to avoid waste. If you're freezing it, make sure you label and date it first.

Formula Milk:

- All formula feeds are made fresh when your baby requires a feed and discarded after one hour.
- Staff will have sought guidance from NHS Best Start in Life ([Best Start in Life health advice - NHS](#)) guide to bottle feeding for preparing bottles and feeding your baby.
- The team will follow manufacturer's guidance on preparing and storing individual formula milk types.
- Staff will ensure the bottle is always either held by an adult during feeding, or is being closely monitored.
- Once an infant has drunk from a bottle of formula milk it should be used within 1 hour and any unused milk must be disposed of after the feed.
- Formula milk will not be reheated.
- Pre-made formula will only be heated once.
- The team will ensure all actions needed to ensure all feeding items, preparation items and workstations are disinfected and sterilised accordingly.

Further guidance for parents, carers and practitioners can be found here:

[Feeding your baby - Best Start in Life - NHS](#)