

Stepney Primary School



A Small School With Great Expectations

Breastfeeding Friendly School Policy

At Stepney raising the achievement and basic skills of pupils and ensuring that they reach their full potential is the responsibility of all staff

BREASTFEEDING POLICY STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

Stepney Primary School recognises breastfeeding as the optimum means of infant feeding.

Stepney Primary School has a duty and responsibility to demonstrate active support, through its policies and staff training practices as well as informing mothers who wish to breastfeed of their support.

GUIDELINES

1. Stepney Primary School acknowledges and supports the rights of women to breastfeed their children in all public areas of their premises. If the mother is happy to feed her baby in a public area, then she should be made to feel comfortable to continue. A chair can be offered for her comfort and convenience.
2. If a mother wishes to feed her baby in private, our staff should advise her of the facilities available (pastoral room, office etc). If a mother chooses not to avail herself of the facilities which have been offered to her, her right to do so must be respected.
3. Ladies toilets are not acceptable as a private space to breastfeed and should not be offered as they do not offer a hygienic environment.
4. The sensitivity of personal opinions of staff must be acknowledged but should not be allowed to deter women from breastfeeding. Staff will be made aware of the policy and have it explained to them before it is widely publicised to service users.
5. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has stated that, while no complaint has been formally pursued, preventing a woman from breastfeeding could constitute discrimination under the Equality Act 2010.

HANDLING OBJECTIONS/COMPLAINTS FROM OTHER CUSTOMERS/USERS

1. If a member of the public objects to a mother breastfeeding, then it is Stepney Primary School policy to move the complainant rather than the mother herself, to an area where they will no longer be able to 'view' the mother.
2. The complainant should also be informed that this is part of Stepney Primary School breastfeeding policy. However, Stepney Primary School may also like to re-iterate that it is their policy to meet the needs of all their customers/users and make their visit as pleasant as possible.
3. Ladies toilets are not acceptable as private space to breastfeed and should not be offered as they do not offer a hygienic environment.

4. The sensitivity of personal opinions of staff must be acknowledged but should not be allowed to deter women from breastfeeding. Staff will be made aware of the policy and have it explained to them before it is widely publicised to service users.

SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

1. Stepney Primary School has tight safeguarding procedures to protect pupils within its care. It is due to the safeguarding issues that we will operate the breastfeeding friendly policy for parents/adults related to the school community. This will not extend to ladies who do not have connections with the school, but are members of the general public.

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

This policy has been taken from the UNICEF policy and updated by:
Mr P Browning (January 2016)

To be reviewed: January 2019