

SAFE SLEEP POLICY

Brockmoor Primary School • Brierley Hill Primary School

POLICY OWNER	Executive Director: Lana Duffin
APPROVED BY	Governing Body
APPROVAL DATE	September 2026
REVIEW DATE	September 2026
REVIEW CYCLE	Annually or sooner following changes to statutory guidance or local safeguarding procedures

Aspiration and opportunity for every child

1. Policy Statement

Black Country Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child. Safe sleep forms part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities. We recognise that babies and very young children are particularly vulnerable during sleep and that staff have a duty to promote safe sleeping practices, identify concerns and provide consistent advice to families where appropriate.

Our approach reflects current safeguarding guidance and supports a culture where children's safety is everyone's responsibility.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- ensure all babies and young children sleep safely whilst in our care
 - reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and sleep-related accidents
 - provide a consistent approach across all Federation settings
 - ensure staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities
 - promote positive partnerships with parents and carers
 - ensure concerns regarding a child's safety or welfare are acted upon promptly.
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3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- all staff
 - volunteers
 - students
 - agency staff
 - visitors working with babies and young children within Black Country Federation.
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4. Legal Framework

This policy should be read alongside:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children
 - Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework
 - Lullaby Trust Safe Sleep Guidance
 - Black Country Federation Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
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5. Roles and Responsibilities

Executive Leaders and Headteachers

Will ensure:

- safe sleep procedures are implemented consistently

- staff receive appropriate induction and refresher training
- practice is monitored through safeguarding audits
- incidents are reviewed and acted upon.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Will:

- monitor compliance with this policy
- support staff where concerns arise
- work with families and external agencies where sleep practices raise safeguarding concerns
- ensure concerns are recorded on the school's safeguarding system where appropriate.

All Staff

Must:

- follow this policy at all times
- supervise sleeping children appropriately
- carry out

6. Safe Sleep Procedures

Black Country Federation is committed to providing a safe sleeping environment for every baby and young child. All staff will follow current safer sleep guidance to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in babies under 12 months and Sudden Unexpected Death in Childhood (SUDC) in older children.

Why Safer Sleep Matters

Creating a safe sleep environment is an essential safeguarding responsibility. Safe sleep practices significantly reduce the risk of sudden infant death and prevent avoidable accidents such as suffocation, entrapment and overheating.

Some babies have an increased risk of SIDS, including those who:

- were born prematurely (before 37 weeks)
- had a low birth weight (less than 2.5 kg)
- were exposed to smoking during pregnancy
- sleep on sofas, armchairs or other unsuitable surfaces.

Every member of staff has a responsibility to ensure that babies and young children sleep safely at all times.

Safe Sleep Environment

For babies aged 12 months and under:

- Babies will always be placed to sleep on their back.
- Babies will only sleep in a cot, travel cot, Moses basket or carrycot that meets current recognised safety standards.
- Each baby will have their own individual sleep space.
- Mattresses will be firm, flat, waterproof, well-fitting and in good condition.
- Cots will contain no pillows, duvets, cot bumpers, sleep positioners, wedges, toys or other loose items.
- Blankets, where used, will be lightweight, securely tucked in no higher than shoulder height, with babies positioned feet-to-foot at the bottom of the cot.
- Alternatively, an appropriately sized baby sleep bag may be used in accordance with the manufacturer's guidance.
- Babies' heads must remain uncovered at all times.
- The sleep environment will be maintained at a comfortable temperature. For babies under 12 months this should normally be between **16°C and 20°C**.

- Staff will regularly check babies for signs of overheating by feeling the chest or the back of the neck. If a baby appears hot or clammy, layers of clothing or bedding will be removed.

Once a baby can independently roll from back to front and back again, they will continue to be placed on their back to sleep but allowed to find their own sleeping position.

Sleeping Arrangements for Children Over 12 Months

Children over 12 months will:

- sleep in their own separate sleep space
- sleep on a firm, flat surface
- be supervised at all times
- have bedding appropriate to their age and temperature.

Sleep comforters may be used only for children aged over 12 months where agreed with parents.

Supervision

The safety of sleeping children is paramount.

Black Country Federation will ensure that:

- babies under six months are always supervised by an adult who remains in the same room throughout the sleep period
- all sleeping children remain within sight and hearing of staff
- children are checked frequently throughout sleep to ensure they remain safe and comfortable
- where baby monitors are used for children over six months, they provide both visual and audio monitoring and do not replace direct supervision.

Sleeping Whilst Travelling

If a baby aged 12 months or under falls asleep during travel:

- they will be transferred to a cot or other approved sleep space immediately upon returning to the setting
- hats, coats and additional outdoor clothing will be removed promptly to prevent overheating.

If a child over 12 months falls asleep whilst travelling:

- wherever possible they will be moved to their own separate sleep space on return to the setting
- lie-flat prams or pushchairs will not be used as the child's main sleep environment
- coats, hats and blankets will be adjusted or removed to prevent overheating.

Children must never be left sleeping in a car seat once they have returned to the setting. Any child who falls asleep in a car seat will be transferred to an appropriate sleep space as soon as practicable.

Equipment

The Federation will ensure that all sleep equipment:

- is clean, safe and well maintained
- is checked regularly for damage
- meets current recognised British Safety Standards where applicable
- is used in accordance with manufacturer guidance.

Partnership with Parents and Carers

Parents and carers will be informed of the Federation's safer sleep procedures during induction. Staff will discuss individual sleep routines, medical needs or cultural preferences while ensuring that all sleep arrangements remain consistent with recognised safer sleep guidance.

Where staff observe unsafe sleep practices at home that may place a child at risk, they will provide supportive advice and, where necessary, seek guidance from the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Safeguarding Concerns

Any concerns regarding a baby's or child's safety during sleep, including repeated unsafe sleep practices, signs of neglect, unexplained injuries or concerns raised by parents or staff, will be treated as safeguarding concerns

and reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with the Federation's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.