

Breastfeeding Friendly Policy



'Breastfeeding is an integral part of the reproductive process, the natural and ideal way of feeding the infant and a unique biological and emotional basis for child development.'

Statement: Joint WHO/ UNICEF Meeting on Infant & Young Child Feeding, Geneva, October, 1979

RATIONALE

Farmhouse Montessori School recognises breastfeeding as the optimum means of infant feeding. Farmhouse Montessori 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.

PURPOSE

Farmhouse Montessori 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.

IMPLEMENTATION

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.

If a mother wishes to feed her baby in private, our staff should advise her of the facilities available (staff room or office) these are available at both school campuses. 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.

Ladies toilets are not acceptable as a private space to breastfeed and should not be offered as they do not offer a hygienic environment.

HANDLING OBJECTIONS/COMPLAINTS FROM OTHER CUSTOMERS/USERS

If a member of the public, objects to a mother breastfeeding, then it is the 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.

The complainant should also be informed that this is part of the school breastfeeding policy however; the 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.

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

Farmhouse Montessori 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.

Source

- The Australian Breastfeeding Association

Policy Review Date

May 2017