**Deans Nursery Breastfeeding Policy**

Aim: to contribute to social and cultural change by promoting an environment where breastfeeding is seen as the normal way to feed infants and young people.

Introduction:

It is known that breastfeeding can have enormous benefit to the health of both the mother and the child. However, as well as “knowing the benefits”, supportive environments are needed to enable and support breastfeeding.

The Breastfeeding (Scotland) Act 2005 makes it an offence to prevent or stop a child who is permitted to be in a public place or licensed premises from being fed milk in that place or in those premises.

‘Towards National, Regional and Local Strategies for Breastfeeding’ suggests that schools can provide accurate and impartial information and support by:

• Using positive and culturally appropriate images of breastfeeding

• Avoiding materials which promote artificial feeding.

• Providing appropriate education and training for staff to enable them to promote, protect and support breastfeeding.

• Increasing awareness of sources of support and information for breastfeeding families.

• Providing a welcoming atmosphere for breastfeeding families and encouraging breastfeeding in the public areas of the establishment.

• Supporting informed choice in relation to infant feeding.

Breastfeeding is crucial to the overall strategy of improving Scotland’s long term health and can contribute to the Curriculum for Excellence Health and Wellbeing experiences and outcomes.