

Funding Policy

Nursery Education Funding is government-funded childcare support offered for 38 weeks of the year. This can be delivered over 38 weeks or stretched over additional weeks, with a maximum of 10 hours per day claimable.

Funding available

Child Age	38 week Offering	Eligibility
2 years	15 hours	Families receiving Government support
3 - 4 years	15 hours	All Parents
From 9 months - 4 years	30 hours	Eligible Working Families

Eligibility Criteria

If your child is born between:	They are eligible for a place from:
1 April and 31 August	1 September after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5
1 September and 31 December	1 January after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5
1 January and 31 March	1 April after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5

*Check government eligibility criteria regarding when you return to work

Our Approach to Funding

The government provides funding for 15 or 30 hours per week for only 38 weeks of the year. This equates to:

- **570 hours** per year (for 15-hour funding)
- **1,140 hours** per year (for 30-hour funding)

Since we operate 51 weeks per year, we mostly stretch this funding across the full year, meaning the weekly funded hours are lower than the stated 15 or 30 hours. We commonly refer to these as the "15 or 30 offer", as shown in the tables within our Schedule of Fees, the actual weekly hours are reduced when stretched and the number of funding hours per day varies by attendance pattern. These adjusted hours are all outlined within the Schedule of Fees.

Eligibility & Code Requirements

Eligibility for working parent entitlement must be confirmed through HMRC, and a valid eligibility code must be provided. We require your permission to check this code and will ask you to sign a **Funding Parental Agreement** to allow for this. Codes must be renewed every three months. Codes can only be applied from the term after your child's qualifying birthday or after they have reached 9 months.

Transparency of Charges

From April 2025, all providers must clearly show how funded hours are delivered and what additional charges apply. To comply with this, we have:

- Broken down our pricing into additional hours, food, consumables, and activity charges
- Sessions that allow you to attend either at no cost or for the cost of just the food and enhancements, in patterns that we plan out for efficiency
- Created flexible fully inclusive offers where parents choose one of our **All-In** packages at a favourable rate
- Provided all the information for you to **Build your own Package**

If you're not eligible for funding, please speak to us about **private fees** that are available at **competitive daily rates**.

Pricing & Billing Model

Our nursery operates 51 weeks a year, using an equalised billing system:

- Fees paid are split equally across 12 months
- Funded hours are only delivered on days your child is booked to attend
- Full fees are charged for bank holidays and training days
- Charges remain consistent to support predictable monthly payments

Additional Charges Explained

Government funding covers your child's **core EYFS entitlement**, which we deliver in full and free of charge during their funded hours.

Consumables include but are not limited to:

- tissues
- cotton wool
- nappy sacks
- cooking materials
- science kits
- seasonal resources

Activities include but are not limited to:

- Enrichment sessions (e.g., yoga, drama, football, music, specialist visitors)
- Seasonal events
- Trips out
- Gifts (e.g., for Mother's Day, Fathers Day, Easter, Christmas)
- Festivals & celebrations resources e.g. Diwali, Chinese New Year, Christmas
- Gardening & growing

Food

- Breakfast
- Snack
- 2 course hot lunch
- Afternoon snack
- Food tasting
- Food for celebrations

Are these charges mandatory?

No. You may opt out of some or all additional charges.

We also offer optional chargeable elements such as meals, consumables and enrichment activities. **These are not a condition of accessing the funded hours.** Parents may choose to opt in or out of any of these extras.

Choosing not to purchase any optional extras **does not affect the quality of care, the safety of your child, or their access to the EYFS curriculum.** It simply means that, where a specific paid-for enhancement is offered, we will provide a suitable alternative activity or ask parents to supply items themselves, in line with our policies.

Flexible Funding Models

We offer two flexible options:

- **Enhanced All-In Packages:** this bundles all extended hours, meals, consumables, and activities into a best value monthly rate. Ideal for convenience.
- **Build Your Own Package:** Using the tables in the Schedule of Fees, choose from our session times and add daily extras: food, activities, consumables, hours as required. Gives parents full control over costs.

Please note:

- 30 hours funding is only offered as a stretched model over 51 weeks.
- A limited number of 38-week places are available for 15 hours only.

We encourage early applications as sessions can fill up quickly.

Termly Funding Allocations

Our local authority calculates funding differently each term, meaning the **number of funded hours varies per term**. The Termly Funding Allocations tables in the Schedule of Fees illustrate how we receive and allocate these hours.

Additionally, the number of funded hours your child receives will depend on:

- **Which term they start funding for the first time**
- **How many terms remain in that academic year**

Attendance Monitoring & Responsible Use of Funds

We are required to ensure that government funding is used as intended and in full:

Where you attend for **funded only** hours:

- You must ensure that you do not arrive late or collect early with any frequency
- Your attendance should not drop below an acceptable level

We may have funded hours removed in these instances and so will apply **additional hourly charges** to you to cover any removal of funding.

Claiming Process

To claim Nursery Education Funding at our nursery you must:

- Complete both the **Funding Parental Agreement** and the Local Authority **Parental Declaration Form**
- Refer to our **Admissions & Waiting List Policy** for guidance on place allocation.

Final Notes

Once your child is eligible for funding, we will support you in accessing the right pattern for your needs. The nursery reserves the right to revise packages in line with government guidance and funding changes.

We aim to be fully transparent, fair, and flexible while supporting high-quality childcare for every family.