



Fees, Funding and additional charges policy

Aim:

From April 2025, government guidance requires Early Years settings offering funded places to clearly break down any charges for consumables and additional services or enhanced provision. This policy explains what is included in your government funding, what we offer beyond that, and why we make a consumables charge. Under the new legislation, we have to provide transparency to parents and an option to "opt-out" of consumables charges, if the parent only wants to access the funded hours (with no extras.)

Funding Availability:

Families may be eligible to receive Government funding, this is based on personal circumstances, to check your entitlement please see the below link.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Important - It is imperative that once the eligibility code has been accessed and given to the Preschool that it is the parents'/carer's responsibility to reconfirm the eligibility code by going onto the government website every three months. If this does not happen, then the code will lapse and the code will no longer be valid to use.

What is covered by government funding?

Government funding covers a basic Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision, which includes items such as:

- Small world figures
- Role play materials
- Puzzles
- Books
- Basic craft supplies
- Sand and water play
- Loose parts
- Construction toys
- A staffing level that meets minimum government ratios

Funding is provided for settings to offer a basic provision of the EYFS which meets the statutory requirements.



What is NOT covered by government funding?

As the government funding is there to cover the basic provision of EYFS, there are certain things that are excluded from funding. Examples of these are:

- Daily Snack e.g. fresh fruit
- Outings
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Special events and parties
- Educational visits into the Preschool
- Additional high-quality resources such as sensory equipment

We strongly believe that early years education should be rich, engaging, and full of real-world experiences. To go beyond the basics and provide the quality of care and learning are proud of, we offer an enhanced provision—which costs more to deliver than government funding provides.

PCF Preschool want to continue offering an outstanding level of education for our children but this is only possible if parents understand why we make a termly consumables charge and 'opt-in' to continue to pay it. Without this cost being met in this way, we may need to reduce the level of enrichment activities we provide.

Families who opt-in will continue to receive:

- A healthy snack provided by the Preschool.
- Specialist learning experiences, including outings, gardening and cooking sessions
- Additional learning resources, such as sensory equipment, baking supplies, art materials, school readiness and our Early Talk Boost Programme.
- Special events, celebrations and Parent consultation phone calls
- Settling-in sessions
- Online learning journal
- Preschool Room Library books
- Enhanced staff ratios
- One-to-one and small group time
- Preschool visitors (animals, police, guide dogs etc)

Families who Opt-out will receive:



- Access to the basic EYFS provision as funded by the government
- Their funded hours free of charge

However, opting out means:

- Families must provide daily snacks for their child, in line with our food policy
- Some enhanced provision experiences may not be included, but we will always ensure a high standard of care
- All nappy and food waste will be bagged to take home
- No online learning journal

Our opt - In Charges:

We will email all families that have chosen to opt - in a termly consumables charge, this has been calculated to:

£30 per a term to cover morning sessions attended

£15 per a term to cover afternoon sessions attended

Payment can be made via bank transfer, cash, tax free childcare or workplace childcare voucher schemes. Payments are requested within 1 week of receiving your child's invoice.

We appreciate that this is an additional cost to you, and we have kept this cost to a minimum and we do very much thank you for your cooperation. This helps towards us being able to give your child the best quality experience they can have whilst they are with us. Should you have a cause for concern in relation to making this extra payment, please do speak to a member of the management team.