Preschool Funding & Charging

From January 2026, Early Education Providers are required to publish the costs of any chargeable extras in line with the Department for Education's Statutory Guidance. Costs should be clear, up-to-date and easily accessible to parents, to enable parents to make an informed choice of provider. This page is dedicated to the information relating to costs at St Walburga's Catholic Primary School.

Preschool Provision Funded & Chargeable Items

Description	Details	Unit Price
Free of charge: 15 hours of childcare	• Available in Term Time over 38 weeks as 8:55am-3:15pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and 8:55am-11:15am on Wednesdays • You can get it from the term after your child's 3rd birthday, starting on 1 January, 1 April or 1 September.	Free
Free of charge: 30 hours of childcare - If you're a working parent, you may be able to get 30 hours of free childcare a week	• Available in Term Time over 38 weeks as 7:45am-5:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays • You can get it from the term after your child's 3rd birthday, starting on 1 January, 1 April or 1 September.	Free

Chargeable: Up to 30 hours of childcare - parents can add extra sessions to the 15 hour offer	• Wednesday afternoons - 11:15am-3:15pm • Breakfast Badgers - available Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:45am-8:55am • Teatime Tigers - available Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:15pm-5:30pm	£21.28 £5.35 £12.08
Chargeable: Option to purchase Preschool sessions	• If parents are using 15-30 hours of childcare in another setting, full school days 8:55am-3:15pm can be purchased • If parents are using 15-30 hours of childcare in another setting, full school days with wraparound care 7:45am-5:30pm can be purchased	£34.00 £51.45
Free of charge: Healthy snack	• A fresh fruit snack (which can consist of banana, orange, apple, carrots) is provided by school as part of the	

	Governments Fruit & Veg Scheme for Schools. • The fruit and vegetables will be fresh and of good quality. The aim is for children to have a positive and enjoyable experience of fruit and vegetables. • On Tuesdays, toast will be served alongside the available fruit	Free
Chargeable: Consumables to be used by the child, such as nappies or sun cream	• Parents/carers can provide these items to school, and this is the most common process for these consumables • School will ask for a contribution from the parent to cover these consumables if school incurs the costs	Ad Hoc
Chargeable: School Meals - £2.00 per day	• School Meals taken at lunch time are charged at £2.00 per day • Charges are processed on ParentPay. Parents have access to ParentPay to add funds their child's account and to access reports of meals taken / charges applied	£2.00 per day

Chargeable: Activities that are not directly related or necessary for the effective delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework	• This includes events, celebrations, specialist tuition. These will be charged at a rate relative to the cost of the activity. e.g School Trips - such as farm visits. If the farm has an admission fee, the amount of this will be chargeable to parents. WOW days - immersive education events at a cost of £2 per child three times across the year. Concerts - such as Nativities, parents will be asked for a small fee to attend.	Ad Hoc

To view the full statutory guidance on Early Education & Childcare please click this link:

Early education and childcare - GOV.UK

The following is taken from the statutory guidance on Early Education & Childcare and is relevant to the publication of the costs of any chargeable extras:

A1.32 Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high quality, flexible childcare. The 15 or 30 hours must be able to be accessed free of charge to parents. There must not be any mandatory charges for parents in relation to the free hours. Government funding is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services.

A1.33 Local authorities should ensure that providers are aware that they can charge parents for the following extras in connection with the free hours, but these charges must be voluntary for the parent:

- consumables to be used by the child, such as nappies or sun cream
- meals and snacks consumed by the child
- extra optional activities such as events, celebrations, specialist tuition (for example music classes or foreign languages) or other activities that are not directly related or necessary for the effective delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework

Providers can also charge parents for any additional, private paid hours according to their usual terms and conditions provided taking up private paid hours is not a condition of accessing a free place.

A1.35 The costs of chargeable extras should be published on provider websites or, where they do not have any website, on local authority Family Information Services. These should be clear, up-to-date and easily accessible to parents, to enable parents to make an informed choice of provider. They should set out, for each setting, the amounts charged for all the chargeable extras listed, as well as the pattern of hours that parents can take the entitlements. Local authorities may wish to ensure providers follow DfE's template of how to set out these costs and may exempt childminders and providers caring for 10 or fewer children at any one time. This should be fully implemented by January 2026 at the latest.

A1.36 Invoices and receipts should be itemised, and local authorities should work with providers to ensure their invoices break down separately into:

- the free entitlement hours
- additional private paid hours
- food charges
- non-food consumables charges
- activities charges

Local authorities should ensure these itemised invoices are in place by January 2026. This is to allow parents to see that they have received their child's free entitlement hours completely free of charge and understand that any fees paid are for additional hours or optional services. Invoices and receipts should include the provider's full details so that they can be identified as coming from a specific provider.

A1.37 Parents must be able to opt out of paying for chargeable extras and the associated consumable or activity for their child. For activities and extra services, providers should be made aware that participation in any optional extra activity should be on the basis of parental choice

and a willingness to meet the charges. In these circumstances, local authorities should ensure that children who do not participate in optional activities continue to receive provision that complies with the EYFS.

A1.38 Providers should be mindful of the impact of charges on families, particularly the most disadvantaged. Providers who choose to offer the free entitlements, are responsible for setting a policy on providing parents with options for alternatives to additional charges. This policy must offer reasonable alternatives that allow parents to access the entitlement for free, including allowing parents to supply their own, or waiving the cost of these items.

A1.39 In all cases, these chargeable extras must not be a condition of taking up a free place. All parents, including disadvantaged families, must have fair access to a free place. A local authority should intervene if a provider seeks to make additional hours, optional services or optional consumables a mandatory condition of taking up a free place.

A1.40 Providers should deliver the free entitlements consistently, so that all children within a setting accessing any of the free entitlements receive the same quality and access to provision, regardless of whether they choose to pay for voluntary hours, voluntary extra services, meals or consumables.

A1.41 Local authorities must take all steps available to ensure that the free entitlements are available free of charge and therefore that providers do not charge parents for the following in connection with the entitlement hours:

- Top-up fees (any difference between a provider's normal charge to parents and the funding they receive from the local authority to deliver free places)
- the supply of or use of any materials, including, but not limited to, craft materials, crayons, paper, books, instruments, toys, or other equipment or learning resources that are necessary for the effective delivery of childcare
- business running costs, including, but not limited to, rent, staff wages, cleaning materials, insurance, or utility bills such as energy, gas or water
- registration fees as a condition of taking up a child's free entitlement place
- non-refundable deposits as a condition of taking up a child's entitlement place
- general charges, including but not limited to, non-itemised enrichment charges, sustainability charges, business continuity charges, additional charges, enhanced ratios, hourly rates, or any other supplementary charges on top of the free hours
- any additional fees that are not specifically identified and itemised as being for chargeable extras as described in A1.33.

A1.42 Local authorities should ensure providers adhere to the following terms, regardless of whether they charge any chargeable extras.

A1.43 Local authorities should ensure that providers work with parents so that parents understand which hours and sessions can be taken as free provision. Not all providers will be able to offer fully flexible places, but providers should work with parents to ensure that as far as possible the pattern of the entitlement hours are convenient for parents' working hours. Local authorities should ensure that children are able to take up their free hours in continuous blocks if they wish to, and there should be no artificial breaks in the entitlement hours. For example a provider should not offer 10am to midday and 1pm to 3pm as entitlement hours and offer only private paid hours in between.

A1.44 Local authorities should ensure that providers and parents are aware that the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) provides additional funding to providers to support the quality of early education for eligible children taking up early education and childcare entitlements. The Disability Access Fund (DAF) supports eligible, disabled children's access to the entitlements.