

## **Funded Only Sessions**

### **Funded Education: Parents Selecting Funded Only Sessions**

#### **Background**

The Department for Education state that ‘Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high quality, flexible childcare. Government funding is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services.’

Local Authorities must ensure that providers are aware that they can charge for meals and snacks as part of a free entitlement place and that they can also charge for consumables, such as nappies or sun cream, and for services such as trips and specialist tuition. 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 or reducing the cost of these items. (DfE 2025).

#### **Little Pickles Nursery Policy**

As an OFSTED rated Outstanding Nursery, we offer additional services beyond what is covered by the Government Funding the full details of our current offer are shown in our Funded Early Education and Childcare at Little Pickles Nursery policy.

For these we make an Additional Services charge per session (to cover Meals, Refreshments, Extra Activities and Consumables) and make charges for Unfunded “Private” Hours in line with Government and Local Authority requirements to provide popular session times for 51 weeks of the year.

#### **Parents Selecting Funded Only Sessions**

Our aim is to offer completely free places to families who choose to opt out of paying our Additional Services Charges and for Unfunded “Private” Hours but which offer limited access to the full Little Pickles experience as dictated by the insufficient funding provided by the Government, we do ensure that the Completely Free places cover all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

#### **For Parents eligible for 15 Hours per Week Funding**

Three 4 hour sessions per week from 13:00 to 17:00 for 48 weeks making a total of 572 hours per year, this is in excess of the 570 hours entitlement and parents can take advantage of these hours should the nursery have to close early on any days due to weather, sickness etc as hours in lieu, if no early finishes occur then these hours will be provided free of charge. A calendar is issued each year showing which days will be

available for nursery attendance, generally sessions will be provided every week except at Christmas and for 2 weeks at the end of August.

### For Parents eligible for 30 Hours per Week Funding

Three 8 hour sessions per week from 10:00 to 18:00 for 48 weeks making a total of 1144 hours per year, this is in excess of the 1140 hours entitlement and parents can take advantage of these hours should the nursery have to close early on any days due to weather, sickness etc as hours in lieu, if no early finishes occur then these hours will be provided free of charge. A calendar is issued each year showing which days will be available for nursery attendance, generally sessions will be provided every week except at Christmas and for 2 weeks at the end of August.

### Summary of Funded Only Sessions

Funded Only Sessions			
Session	Description	Hours	Cost
For Parents with 15 hours Funding 10:00 - 18:00 3 Sessions per week	<i>Funded Hours</i>	4	£0.00
	<b>Total per session</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
For Parents with 30 hours Funding 13:00 - 17:00 3 Sessions per week	<i>Funded Hours</i>	8	£0.00
	<b>Total per session</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

### Additional Sessions

Sessions beyond those above are not available as Funded Only sessions and we do not offer our regular sessions in addition to these Funded Only sessions or the purchase of "Private Hours".

### Meals, Snacks and Refreshments

Meals, snacks and refreshments must be provided by the parent in line with our Parent Provided Food Policy which must be strictly adhered to; when you agree for your child to attend Little Pickles you will be deemed to have accepted this policy in full and agree to be bound by it, please ask for the latest version of the policy if you wish to refer to it. Our staff do not have the authority to vary this policy but can advise you about how the policy operates.

Please ask if you optionally wish for us to provide our family-style meals for which charges will apply. If you wish your child to receive this **optional meals package** you will need to

do so on a termly basis and will be invoiced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Prices for our Optional Meals, Snacks and Refreshments Package are shown below.

### Enhanced Activity and Consumables Package.

Our Completely Free Places do not offer access to our enhanced activities however we do offer an **Optional Enhanced Activity and a Consumables Package** alongside the Free Places which offer your child full access. If you wish your child to receive these optional packages you will need to do so on a termly basis and will be invoiced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Prices and a detailed explanation of the Package contents are shown below.

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL PACKAGES FOR FUNDING ONLY SESSIONS		
LITTLE PICKLES FUNDED ONLY SESSION PACKAGES		
Attended Hours	4	8
Session Times	13:00 - 17:00	10:00 - 18:00
	For Parents with 15 Hours Funding; 12hr/ week Funded Only Sessions	For Parents with 30 Hours Funding; 24hr/ week Funded Only Sessions
Breakfast		
Snacks and Refreshments	☑	☑
Lunch		☑
High Tea	☑	☑
Meals Package	£5.01	£13.06
Enhanced Activity and a Consumables Package	£7.89	£13.88
All Package Total	£12.90	£26.94

Our Packages are offered on a termly basis and for all sessions attended. We do not offer them on a day-by-day basis and the package must be booked in advance. The price covers everything necessary for each session, there is no need to bring anything from home if you take both Packages, all allergies and preferences are accommodated. Payment is monthly in advance; invoices dated the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month payable by the 6<sup>th</sup>.

The monthly cost is calculated as follows:

*Cost per day X number of sessions attended per week X 48 weeks attendance ÷ 12 months equals the monthly cost.*

### Special Celebration Days

Due to the restrictive nature of the Government Funding, we may have to charge for certain Celebration Days and Parties, attendance is optional, and a small charge will be made. You will be advised in advance of events,

### **Availability**

All places at Little Pickles are subject to availability of both staff and space, and are regulated by OFSTED with no option for us to vary the total number of places we can offer; if they are fully booked then parents can join our waiting list for a place, take one of our places which include Additional Services Charges and Unfunded “Private” Hours (if available) or we will give them the details of some other local settings who may have availability and may deliver the funding differently.

If your child is accessing a place with us and you select Funded Only Sessions you must bring everything they will need during their day. We have exceptionally high standards and to ensure that your child receives this same high standard you must provide equipment that is equal to that which we provide, this will include:

- Nappies, wipes, face wipes and nappy cream as needed
- A named bottle of Factor 50 hypoallergenic suncream, this must not contain almond oil.
- To fully participate in our daily outdoor provision, you must provide 2 sets of waterproof clothing, tops and bottoms, 2 hats, and 2 pairs of gloves. We will send these home each evening to be washed and dried in time for your child’s next session, we also ask for 2 sets of thermal fleeces to be worn underneath and 2 pairs of wellington boots. All clothing for outdoor play will need to be replaced frequently as the children are outside for extended periods as these items wear out quickly, they must also be replaced as your child grows as they must fit correctly.
- If your child needs Calpol or Piriton we will contact you to bring some and administer it. We will administer Calpol from the nursery supplies if you cannot be contacted and if you have given consent for us to administer Calpol in an emergency such as an increase in the child’s temperature and where the parents CANNOT be contacted.

If your child arrives without everything they need (including food which must comply with our Parent Provided Food Policy), we will contact you and ask you to bring it in as it is essential that every child is able to fully participate in our provision. In the event of persistent failure to provide everything your child needs, we will contact the local authority for advice.

All Parents must:

- complete a parental declaration using our on-line system – “Funding Loop”.
- provide us with their child’s original birth certificate or passport.

**Little Pickles Nursery**  
**January 2026**