

La Petite Academy Charging Policy 2025/26

The Early Education and Childcare Guidance (01/04/25) issued by the Department for Education (DfE) gave greater clarity and consistency around the management of the Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) for parents and providers. In response to this, we have created this policy to ensure that parents are fully aware of their ability to 'opt out' of additional extras in connection with the FEEE to ensure that where funded hours are in place, parents can access this free of charge at the point of delivery should they wish.

Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours per week of free, high quality, flexible childcare for up to 38 weeks of the year. This includes the provision of appropriately trained staff to deliver the requirements of the EYFS; the use of the premises and learning environment including outdoors; access to age appropriate toys, furniture and resources; and basic consumables required to meet their learning and care needs (for example drinking water, tissues, craft materials, cleaning materials, staff PPE).

No 'top-up' fee is charged to cover the shortfall between government funding and true operational costs. Where we receive higher funding per hour for children under the age of 3, we offer discounts on the package costs. Package costs will increase the term after a child turns 2 years old and again the term after they turn 3 years old in line with our published fee schedules.

Government funding is not intended to cover the costs of meals and snacks; other consumables; additional 'private' hours and additional services. The DfE guidance is clear that providers can charge for these additional extras provided parents have the option to 'opt out' of them.

Parents should be aware that where they are taking a mixed package of funded hours and paid for private hours, especially those stretched over 47.5/52 weeks per year, these packages have been heavily discounted. Where parents opt out of additional charges during their funded hours they will lose their package discount, and private hours will be charged at the full price of £15 per full hour and £10 per part hour and meals will be charged at full price as below. There is no option to opt out of meal/consumable payments during private hours.

Where only FEEE hours are being taken, no registration fee will be charged.

All charges can be reduced by 20% when paid for through the government tax-free childcare scheme, and by up to 85% through Universal Credit. More information is available at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Charges

We charge 80p per funded hour to cover the cost of consumables over and above the 'basics'. This includes:

- Use of the setting's suncream, sun hats, coats, wellingtons and wet weather 'all in ones'.
- Seasonal celebration resources and activities during events as identified on the annual Events List provided to parents (e.g. craft resources for Mothers/Fathers day and baking resources for Pancake day)
- Christmas parties including prizes, arts and craft bags and presents from Father Christmas
- Pre-School nativity/carols around the tree at the local social club to cover hiring costs
- Nappy disposal
- Calpol and Piriton
- Provision of baby wipes, nappy bags and wet toilet wipes
- Foam, non-alcohol hand sanitiser in dispensers around the setting
- Toothbrush and toothpaste in Pre-School for supervised brushing
- Graduation party including prizes and party bags
- Seasonal and event food such as at Chinese New Year, ice lollies in hot weather and garden party events
- Trips where the nursery covers the entrance fee and/or transport costs

We charge for meals and snacks at a cost of:

- Breakfast £2.90 (8am to 8:30am)
- Morning and afternoon snack £1.60 each (9:30am and 1:30pm)
- Two course hot lunch £7.60 (11am, or 12 noon for Pre-School)
- Light tea and fruit £3.80 (3:30pm)
- Meal package of all meals above £13.50
- Meal package of snacks and lunch only £10.80
- Meal package of snacks, lunch and tea £11.90
- Milk is provided free of charge each day through the nursery milk scheme. However, where parents opt out of paying for meals, they will have to provide any dairy free milk themselves (e.g. soya, coconut). Dairy free options are provided as part of meal charges.

We charge £2 per session of Boogie Beat music and movement which is a 'bought in' service. The day and time of this session alters termly to enable as many children to benefit from it as possible.

All families must provide their own nappies, barrier cream and formula milk for hygiene reasons.

All of the above charges can be opted out of during FEEE hours. Parents are then required to provide their own food and/or consumables for these times in line with our Nutrition Policy. It is the parents' responsibility to supply all the required items every day that their child attends and the nursery will not send reminders regarding this.

Parents must inform the setting in writing of their intention to opt out of any of these services by the start of each term. Parents will not be able to opt out mid-term as resources and food will have already been purchased. Parents wishing to opt back in can speak to the manager at any time to discuss how soon this can be accommodated.

Should any parent fail to provide a valid eligibility code where required and/or complete a termly funding form by the date given each term then full price will be charged for any services taken and there will be no ability to opt out of the charges above.

Meals

If you are electing to provide your own meals during your government funded hours, then you must provide all food and drink that your child requires, other than water. Please be aware the nursery will not heat up/prepare any food or provide any crockery/cutlery and will return all dirty crockery/cutlery etc to you for washing.

Please ensure that you include a 'cool pack' in the lunch box as these will be kept in the rooms, not a fridge. Please ensure that you read the full 'Nutrition and Mealtimes' Policy (available on our website) for more details, including suggestions for healthy, balanced meals.

We are a NUT FREE nursery and no foods containing nuts will be served. Any grapes must be pre-cut into quarters to prevent choking. No chocolate bars, fizzy drinks or sweets will be served. These will all be returned to you at the end of your child's session.

Please ensure the food sent is appropriate for the age and stage of your child, especially for children in the baby unit who are still weaning.

Should you not provide appropriately healthy, balanced food, a meal will be served to your child and an invoice raised for the current meal cost as above. Provision and washing of any crockery/cutlery will incur a £1 charge per day.

Consumables

All consumables must also be provided in a named bag to go on your child's peg and again will incur a usage charge should they not be provided. We do not have the space to accept bulk packs.

All costs are per use:

Nappies (£1)

Baby wipes (50p)

Nappy sacks (50p)

Wet toilet wipes (50p)

Emergency use of nursery suncream or medication (50p)

Baking activities and event experiences (£1). These are where activities happen 'above and beyond' our usual EYFS provision and often have a 'take home' product at the end, or for purchasing 'special food' such as ice creams/lollies in the summer, food tasting for Chinese New Year etc. You will be asked in advance if you wish your child to take part or not. This includes our activity weeks where parents and grandparents are invited in for craft activities. Payment for these must be made in advance.

Pre-School also have two parties across the year, this will incur a charge of £5 per party for food/activities/prizes should you wish your child to attend. Again, this must be paid in advance.

In Pre-School children also require a toothbrush (£1) and toothpaste (50p) for use after lunch.

We operate a 'two strikes' rule regarding provision of meals and consumables. Once we have provided you with, and charged for, 2 items that you have not provided for your child, you will receive 4 weeks' notice to either move onto a paid place (£15.60 for a 9-3 session or £17.90 for a 9-4:30 session) or to terminate your child's place at the setting.