

Fee Policy – Sept 2024

Payment of fees

In North Yorkshire, the school year is split into six half-terms. At the start of each half-term, fee invoices are distributed to parents. From September 2023, fees are set at £15 per session or £29.75 for a full session.(£5.95ph) However, as we are Ofsted Registered, parents can claim up to 15 hours free universal funding from the term after their child turns 3 (2 year olds funding is also available within certain criteria and universal 2 year funding is coming into place in April 2024), and some parents may be eligible for a further 15 hours extended entitlement. If not claiming funding, parents are requested to pay the full fee payment at the beginning of each half-term by cash, BACS, through childcare voucher schemes, or through Tax free childcare scheme. We require 6 weeks notice for cancellation of a place.

Fees cannot be refunded under the following circumstances:

- Non-attendance due to parental choice
- Holidays during term time
- Illness (if there is a prolonged absence due to illness then fees may be reduced – each case will be considered individually)
- Self -isolating through Government advice
- Your child has left half way through a term (unless the place can be filled by another child).
- Adverse weather/ emergency closure – half fees will be refunded.

If the pre-school has to close under any circumstances, fees will not be payable.

Payments for consumables:

As you are probably aware, funding from the Government has become tighter in the Early Years sector. The funding that we get is not expected to cover higher staff ratios/ snacks/ resources (paper, glue, playdough etc). We therefore ask for a contribution for consumables:

Funded children: We will be asking for £1 per session which will cover your child's resources and snack. This will be invoiced to you half-termly. You can either pay your by cash or bank transfer.

Please make all payments too:

South Milford Preschool Ltd

Acc no: 31124005

Sort code: 04-03-33

Please use your child's surname as reference.

Funding:

For all information about funding please visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> for clear information on all types of funding and tax benefits.

Universal 3 and 4 year old funding (15 hours)

All children over three are eligible to claim the universal Early Education Funding. This funding is based on the traditional three-term year with Autumn, Spring and Summer terms and can be claimed for at the beginning of each term. The funding covers 15 hours of childcare for 38 weeks of the year and can be claimed in the term after the child has turned three. Parents are required to sign a Parental Declaration form which asks for personal details and the number of providers your child attends during the term. The forms will be given to you by preschool.

Extended 3 and 4 year old funding entitlement (extra 15 hours)

Some parents may also be entitled to an extended 15 hours funding (30 hours in total) for their 3 and 4 year olds. This funding is based on eligibility criteria and it is the responsibility of the parent to apply for this funding through HMRC. You will have to reconfirm your eligibility with HMRC every 3 months.

Early Education Funding – for 2 year olds

With effect from April 2014, families with a 2 year old child, may be able to have a free early years place for their child.

The Government is funding childcare for 2 year olds for particular groups that receive some forms of support. If you think you may be entitled to this funding you can apply online. We will need your details from this once you have applied.

Universal 2 year Funding - April 2024

The government is rolling out their Childcare Expansion Programme which offers funding to 2 year old children from April 2024. You will need to apply for this on your government gateway account. More information about this can be found [HERE](#).

Tax Free childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is now open to all eligible parents with a child under 12. This means all eligible parents can now get up to £2,000 per child, per year, off their childcare costs. You may also be eligible for Tax Credit or Universal Credit for childcare. You can apply through this through your Government Gateway portal.

Tax Credits for Childcare

This is available for working families in the UK with children under the age of 16. It can help with up to 70% of childcare costs.

Universal Credit for Childcare

This is available for working families claiming Universal Credit. It can help with up to 85% of eligible childcare costs.

For further information regarding all Early Years funding and tax benefits, please visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

Late Payment of Fees

Fees MUST be paid before the half-term begins. This date is stated on your invoice. Please be advised that a late payment charge of £10 will be invoiced to you the following term if payment is late. Please note, this includes your snack and consumables invoice. Preschool has the right to refuse care if payment has not been made.

If you think you are going to have problems paying the fees within the stated timescales then please contact Mel or Trudy, who will be willing to discuss alternative arrangements for payment with you.

Non-Payment of Fees

If you have not contacted the management team to arrange late payment of fees and the fees still remain unpaid at the end of the half-term then you will be asked to meet with Mel or Trudy to discuss payment and agree a schedule for paying fee arrears. Any decision taken will foremost take into consideration the welfare of your child and the wider interests of the group. If the repayment schedule is not agreed or maintained, the preschool will seek advice from other authorities, including legal advice.

Review

The fees will be reviewed annually.

M. Riches & T. Saunders

Written April 2023

Reviewed - September 2024

Next review - September 2025