Fee Policy - April 2025

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 April 2025, fees are set at £15.50 per session or £30.50 for a full session.( or 6.50ph) However, as we are Ofsted Registered, parents can claim up to 15 hours free universal funding from the term after their child turns 3 and some parents may be eligible for a further 15 hours extended entitlement.

2 year old funding is also available within certain criteria and universal 2 year funding came into place in April 2024 (15 hours).

30 hours of government funded childcare may also be available to families that meet ‘working entitlement’ criteria from September 2025 for children aged 9 months and above.

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 (funded children only):

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/ nappies/wipes/suncream/extra curricular activities/ visitors and special events (e.g. Christmas party). We therefore ask for a voluntary contribution for these consumables each term. These invoices are annualised meaning you pay the same each session spreading the cost over the 12 months. We charge this for every session your child attends to offer more flexibility in delivering these across the year.

We will be asking for £1.50 per session which will cover the above. This will be invoiced to you half-termly. You can either pay 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 funded 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.

Funding expansion September 2025  
From September 2025 the final stage of the rollout will occur, with eligible working parents able to access up to 30 free hours per week (over 38 weeks a year) for children aged from 9 months old until they start school. Parents should apply during the term before they wish to take up a place, with the earliest possible point to apply being 16 weeks before their child turns 9 months old. Parents need to reconfirm their eligibility every 3 months. This means any parents that apply more than 3 months before the start of the term their child is first eligible for will need to reconfirm their eligibility before the term begins to take up a place.

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. 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  
 - March 2025*

*Next review - March 2026*