



Early Education Funded Provision Policy

At Barrowford Nursery we offer government funded places, for disadvantaged 2 year olds, working families funding for 9mth-2yr olds and universal/extended for 3/4 year olds, where places are available. We offer provision for Early Education Funded places within our normal session times, with a voluntary meals, consumables and extra's charge, and parents are also able to purchase additional hours above their entitlement. Early Education funded places are free at point of service with a meals, consumables and extra's charge requested for Early Education Funded places as detailed within this policy.

The provision for Early Years Funded places is dependent on the criteria being met, as set out by Lancashire County Council (LCC). This includes the parent having a valid current eligibility code from HMRC, that the parent has reconfirmed the eligibility code or the eligibility code is within their grace period, the parent has completed a Parental Declaration form, the parent has provided an original copy of documentation such as birth certificate and passport to confirm the child has reached the eligible age for the Early Education Funded place and in the case of two year funded place (golden ticket) the confirmation letter of eligibility from LCC.

We are unable to claim for any government funding without a completed Parental Declaration form. The information provided on the Parental Declaration form may enable the setting to access any additional funding that the child may be eligible for, such as Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Fund (DAF). We will retain paper or digital copies of documentation.

The maximum hours that can be claimed each term are: -

Autumn: 210 universal/ 210 extended

Spring: 165 universal/ 165 extended

Summer: 195 universal/ 195 extended

We only claim for the sessions booked/utilised; we do not claim full entitlement to enable the banking of hours. However, we do accommodate requests for additional childcare where we are able. Where the parent is not already using their full entitlement, we will then put in a supplementary claim for funding as is appropriate. If a supplementary claim is unable to be processed, then the parent must pay the settings normal fees for the requested additional hours.

Parents are required to give a four week notice period for any funded and paid hours when deciding to withdraw their child from the setting/opting out and will be invoiced for this period in the usual way.

Procedure for accessing funded provision at Barrowford Nursery

All parents complete an admission pack on registration with Barrowford Nursery which includes Child Registration Form, Parental Contract, Parental Consents and GDPR consent. Where a parent wishes to access two year funded place (golden ticket) they must provide the original confirmation letter from LCC and original documentation for proof of identification and age such as birth certificate and passport; this original proof of identification is also required for all government funding educational places. Where a parent wishes to access government funding, they will have a discussion with a manager who will provide the Parental Declaration Form. When providing the funding information documents and the Parental Declaration Form to parents a one-to-one discussion is also made regarding the voluntary meals, consumables and meals charge. Any questions or queries are answered at this time and the parent is listened to. A breakdown of the voluntary meals, consumables and extra's charge can be found in Appendix one; this voluntary charge is not a condition of taking up a funded place and there is a procedure to opt out where parents are unwilling to pay the charge. We also signpost and support parents to explore the government Tax Free Childcare account which may give them access to a further 20% reduction in what childcare costs for them.

As an Ofsted recognised outstanding nursery and LCC Lead Practitioner we pride ourselves on working with our individual families to access excellent teaching, outstanding education and safe care for our children. We develop good, strong partnerships with our families and offer them support in many different ways. Individual support and experiences for children and families are at the heart of what we do, and we are committed to providing services which meet each child's needs and the needs of the family unit. Time is taken to reflect on our children and families in order to identify those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged as this is not always easily identifiable.

Where the extent of parents declining to pay the voluntary meals, consumables and extra's charges/opting out, outweighs business sustainability then the setting reserves the right to withdraw from the government funding scheme.

What is the voluntary meals, consumables and extra's charge and how is it formulated?

Our meals, consumables and extra's charge is formulated by a thorough review of our costings. This is executed yearly before a review of all our fees is completed. Where this cost is to be either reduced or increased, we will give our parents at least four weeks' notice although we aim to give more. At the same review we also reflect our procedure and options to support families who are struggling. The charge is currently £2.75 per funded hour as of 1st April 2025 (0.75p ph meals, 0.50p ph consumables, £1.50 ph extras).

All our childcare charges are per hour; we do not have sessional charges. As such our voluntary meals, consumables and extras are charged in the same way. Funded children receive their funded hours free at point of service with the additional meals, consumables and extra's charge showing, as well as any hours above funded entitlement. If you wish to access the 'opt out' policy, then please speak to a member of the management team.

Appendix one - Parental contributions (M, C & E)

Meals & Snacks

Snacks

Lunch

Tea

Drinks throughout day

Additional snacks where child hungry or in need (Inc. breakfast where deemed needed or additional snack)

Foods provided for special dietary needs

Additional celebratory foods for cultural learning

Foods where we have special activities such as wellbeing breakfasts, forest school with parents/carers, visits to local older persons residence etc

Foods for activities such as baking, soup making, relation to stories or topics i.e., fruits for Handa's Surprise or tasting activities

Please note this list of food is not exhaustive, it covers any food, snack or food resource which is covered during nursery session.

Consumables

All consumables for child such as wipes, sun cream, tissues, toilet rolls, nappies etc.

Please note this list of consumables is not exhaustive, it covers any chargeable consumable used during the nursery session.

Outstanding quality of teaching/education

Intervention groups

Intensive interaction

One to one support

Specialised equipment

Additional activities such as bird of prey visits, farm school visits, iPlay soccer, Gibbon Outdoors, Bikeability, Baby sign, Mud club, Wild by Nature, Little English, arts workshops, visits to other community members, intergenerational activities, Christmas parties

Outdoor trips such as heritage centre, supermarket visit, pet shop visit, Library visit, bus trips, Nature Garden visits, Heritage centre visits
Forest school sessions
Parental activity sessions or days, Stay and Play days
Access to additional training
Additional materials for engaging play and learning activities (in addition to the normal pens, paper, paint etc).

Please note this list is not exhaustive, it covers any additional activities/experiences/opportunities offered during the nursery day.

This also allows us to: -

Have staff qualified to level three or above (which is above statutory requirements)
Employ graduate staff (various early years degree areas to ensure quality of provision)
Have extra staff daily, above which is statutory, to enable delivery of extra activities/specialist activities
Have managers who are not counted into ratio numbers ensuring higher quality of teaching, education and care, better support for staff and health & safety is of a high level.
Employ early years practitioners who have many years of experience.

The list of items/resources/areas containing in this breakdown is not exhaustive