

Consumables Charging Policy and Pricing Structure

1. Purpose of this Policy

This policy sets out our approach to charging for consumables and additional services in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance on Early Education and Childcare funding. It explains clearly what parents can expect to pay for, what is included within funded and non-funded sessions, and ensures transparency and compliance with funding rules.

Our setting is committed to ensuring that: - Funded early education places are delivered **free at the point of delivery**. - Any charges made are **voluntary, transparent, and optional** where funding is used. - Parents are not required to pay consumable charges as a condition of accessing a funded place.

2. Legal Framework (DfE Guidance)

In line with DfE Early Education Funding guidance:

We **cannot charge** for: - The funded hours themselves - Staff costs relating to delivery of funded hours - Core learning activities or resources required to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

We **are permitted to charge** (optionally) for: - Consumable items (e.g. food, snacks, craft materials) - Additional services (e.g. meals, breakfast club, after-school provision)

Parents must always have the option to: - Provide their own alternatives (where appropriate) - Access their funded hours without paying consumable charges

3. Parent-Provided Items

Parents are required to provide the following items for their child: - Nappies - Wipes - Packed lunches (unless a hot school meal is purchased)

4. Hot School Meals

Parents may choose to order a **hot school meal** provided by the school: - Cost: **£3.50 per day** - This is optional and charged separately

5. Consumables Charge (Funded Sessions)

For funded sessions, we apply an **optional consumables charge of £2.00 per 3-hour session**.

This charge contributes towards the cost of items that are **not covered by funding** and are consumed during the session.

Consumables Breakdown (per 3-hour session)

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Consumable Item Description	Legally Permitted to Charge	Included in £2 Charge	
Snacks & Drinks	Mid-session snacks, milk, water	Yes	✓
Additional Craft Materials	Extra materials beyond EYFS core provision	Yes	✓
Baking Ingredients	Ingredients used in voluntary cooking activities	Yes	✓
Sun Cream (Setting-provided)	For outdoor play where required	Yes	✓
Celebration & Event Consumables	Food items, craft materials, decorations and small keepsakes for Christmas, Nativity, Halloween, party days, Easter bonnet activities, Sports Day and graduation ceremonies	Yes	✓

Consumable Item Description	Legally Permitted to Charge	Included in £2 Charge
Gifts at Events	Small gifts or mementos provided during celebrations or end-of-year events	Yes ✓
Disposable Activity Materials	Single-use or regularly replaced items used in activities (e.g. paper plates, card, glue, paint, sensory materials, cooking disposables)	Yes ✓
Specialist Activity Materials	Consumable resources used during optional specialist sessions such as dance classes and gardening club (e.g. props, compost, seeds, plant pots)	Yes ✓
Village & Local Outing Consumables	Snacks, drinks and disposable materials used during local village or community outings	Yes ✓

Summary of Consumables Charges

The consumables listed above relate only to items that are **used up or consumed** during sessions, celebrations, enrichment activities, specialist classes, or local outings and are **not required to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**. Charges are applied on an **optional basis only** for children accessing funded hours. Parents may choose to opt out of any consumables charge and provide suitable alternatives so their child can continue to participate fully. At no time is payment of consumables a condition of accessing a funded early education place.

6. Session Pricing Structure

Standard Day Sessions (Non-Funded or Paid Hours)

These sessions **include consumables** within the session fee.

Session Time	Price	What Is Included

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9:00am – 12:00pm	£16	Care, EYFS activities, snacks, drinks, craft materials
12:00pm – 3:00pm	£16	Care, EYFS activities, snacks, drinks, craft materials
9:00am – 3:00pm	£32	Full day care including all consumables

7. Breakfast Club

Times and Charges

- **8:00am – 9:00am:** £5.50 (paid session)
- **Funded children:** £1.00 consumables charge (optional)

What Breakfast Club Covers

Item	Description	Permitted Charge
Continental Breakfast	Cereal, toast, fruit, milk, water	Yes
Supervised Care	Calm activities and preparation for the day	Yes (as additional service)

8. After-School Club

Times and Charges

- **3:00pm – 4:30pm:** £6.50 (paid session)
- **Funded children:** £1.00 consumables charge (optional)

What After-School Club Covers

Item	Description	Permitted Charge
Refreshments	Light snacks and drinks	Yes
Activities	Relaxed play, games, creative activities	Yes (as additional service)

9. Transparency and Parental Choice

We ensure that: - All charges are clearly communicated in advance - Invoices clearly separate funded hours from consumables and additional services - Parents are never required to pay consumables charges to access funded hours - Parents who opt out of consumable charges will receive **weekly advance information** about what to provide so their child can access equivalent food or materials.

Local Authority and Funding Compliance

This setting's consumables charging approach is fully aligned with Department for Education Early Education Funding guidance and local authority expectations. In particular, the setting ensures that:

- Funded hours are delivered **free at the point of access**
- Consumables and additional services are **clearly optional**
- Parents are provided with **clear written information** about charges in advance
- Parents can access funded hours **without purchasing food, materials, events or activity-related consumables**
- Children are **not disadvantaged, excluded or treated differently** based on payment choices

This policy is designed to support transparency, parental choice, and equitable access and is reviewed annually or following updates to national or local funding guidance

10. Invoicing (FEEE-Compliant Practice)

Invoices will: - Show funded hours as **£0.00** with no monetary value applied - Separately itemise: - Additional private paid hours - Food charges - Non-food consumables charges - Additional services (breakfast club, after-school club) - Match the fees published in this policy

Example Invoice (Funded Child)

Description	Sessions	Rate	Total
FEEE Funded Hours	15 hours	£0.00	£0.00
Consumables (optional)	5 sessions	£2.00	£10.00

Description	Sessions	Rate	Total
Breakfast Club Consumable	3 sessions	£1.00	£3.00

Total Due: £13.00

Parents who choose not to purchase consumables will not be invoiced for these items.

This policy is reviewed annually or in line with updates to DfE guidance.

Consumables Table Cross-Reference

Invoices will clearly reference the consumables categories outlined in the **Consumables Breakdown (per 3-hour session)** table within this policy. This may include itemised or grouped entries for:

- General session consumables
- Celebration and event consumables
- Disposable activity materials
- Specialist activity consumables (e.g. dance classes, gardening club)
- Village or local outing consumables

All consumables charges will:

- Be shown separately from funded hours
- Be clearly labelled as **optional**
- Reflect the published rates within this policy
- Only be invoiced where parents have chosen to purchase them

Funded hours will always appear as **£0.00** and will not be offset or conditional on any consumables or additional services.

Packed Lunch Arrangements

Parents may choose to provide a packed lunch for their child. Packed lunches are required where a child is not accessing a purchased hot school meal.

Packed Lunch Expectations

Packed lunches should:

- Be healthy and nutritious, in line with EYFS and school food guidance
- Be clearly labelled with the child's name
- Avoid foods that present a choking risk
- Take account of allergies and dietary requirements within the setting

To support consistency and safety, the setting reserves the right to remove or replace items that are unsafe or unsuitable. Please see additional packed lunch policy.

Opting Out of Food or Consumables Charges

Parents may opt out of paying for:

- Snack and drink charges
- Cooking or baking ingredients
- Additional consumables (e.g. sun cream)
- Breakfast club or after-school refreshments

Opting out will never affect a child's access to their funded entitlement or the quality of provision they receive.

Weekly Advance Information

Where parents choose to opt out of food or consumable charges, the setting will provide weekly advance information outlining:

- Planned snacks and drinks
- Any cooking or baking activities
- Any additional materials required for participation

This ensures children who opt out can bring equivalent alternatives and continue to participate fully alongside their peers.

If Items/Correct Items Are Not Provided

If a parent opts out but does not provide suitable food or consumables:

- The setting will contact the parent where possible
- If necessary to ensure the child's wellbeing, the setting may provide the item
- Any items provided by the setting may be charged at the published consumables rate

This approach ensures that children are not disadvantaged and that their needs are met at all times.

Inclusion and Equal Access

Children who opt out of consumables or additional services will:

- Continue to receive EYFS-compliant provision
- Be included in activities wherever reasonably possible
- Never be excluded or treated differently due to payment choices

The setting will make reasonable adjustments to ensure fairness and inclusion for all children.

Date of Review: _____ Dec 2025_____

Next Review Due: _____ Aug 2026_____