

Opt-Out Policy for Consumable Charges

In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, the Government's Early Education Entitlement funding covers the delivery of basic childcare only. It does not extend to consumables, snacks, or additional services that enhance children's daily experiences. For this reason, we make a separate charge to help cover these costs.

What Consumables Cover

- Higher staff ratios for more individual attention
- Nutritious snacks and drinks provided daily
- Wipes and toileting resources (e.g. gloves, wet clothes/nappy bags)
- Art and craft materials (paints, paper, glue, playdough, etc.)
- Cooking ingredients for children's activities
- Gardening resources (seeds, soil, pots, etc.)
- Cleaning and hygiene materials used in direct provision for children
- High-quality learning resources and equipment
- Extra-curricular and enrichment activities
- External workshops, visits, and entertainment opportunities
- Special events such as Mother's Day, Christmas, and other celebrations
- Access to the online learning journal Tapestry
- Use of ParentMail for communication and administration

We understand that some families may choose not to contribute towards the consumable charge. If a parent decides to opt out, the following policy applies:

Expectations for Families Who Opt Out

- Snacks: Supplying a daily nutritious snack and drink for their child.
- Additional activities: Paying individually for weekly enrichment activities such as Little All Sports and Jitterbugs.
- Celebration and themed events: Paying individually for events such as the bouncy castles, Mother's Day celebrations, Christmas parties, Mince Pie and Mingle, Farm Visit.
- Personal care supplies: Providing additional wipes, gloves, and nappy/wet clothes bags for their child to ensure hygiene needs are met.

Summary

By contributing to the consumables charge, families help ensure that all children benefit from a rich, engaging, and well-resourced preschool experience. Opting out is a parent's choice, but it will require families to provide resources themselves and to pay separately for additional activities and events. We are grateful for the support of all families as it directly impacts the opportunities and experiences we are able to offer our children. Government funding alone falls significantly short of covering the true cost of running the preschool. Without support through consumables contributions, we would be unable to continue operating at the standard families expect and the long-term viability of the preschool would be jeopardised.