CS NURSERY SCHOOLS LTD

Consumables & Enhanced Provision

Your Funded Nursery Hours

From April 2025, government guidance requires nurseries offering funded places to clearly break down any charges for consumables and additional services or enhanced provision. At CS Nursery Schools Ltd we have always been transparent about our fees and what we offer.

This document explains what is included in your government funding, what we offer beyond that, and why we make a consumables and enhanced provision charge.

Under the new legislation, we have to provide transparency to parents and an option to “opt-out” of consumables charges, if the parent only wants to access the funded hours (with no extras.)

This document has been written following the latest guidance. If you would like anything explained further, please speak to a nursery manager.

What is covered by government funding?

Government funding covers the basics

Government funding covers a basic Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision, which includes items such as:

- Small world figures, role play materials, puzzles, books, and basic craft
- supplies
- Sand and water play
- Loose parts and construction toys
- A staffing level that meets minimum government ratios
- Access to an outdoor space
- Funding is provided for settings to offer a basic provision of the EYFS which meets the statutory requirements.

What is NOT covered by government funding?

As the government funding is there to cover the basic provision of EYFS, there are certain things that are excluded from funding. Examples of these are:

- Additional toiletry and hygiene supplies that include baby wipes, nappy sacks, tissues for example
- Extra activities such as nature walks, park visits.
- Parents Evenings
- Parent meetings often held before and after nursery hours
- Termly Development summaries and next steps to support your child.
- Celebration of festivals and faiths with additional craft activities
- Learning journeys with pictorial and development records
- Special events and parties or extra-curricular activities

We strongly believe that early years education should be rich, engaging, and full of real-world experiences. To go beyond the basics and provide the quality of care and learning we are proud of, we offer an enhanced provision—which costs more to deliver than government funding provides.

The reality of nursery funding

An underfunded political problem

Many nurseries are choosing to stop offering funded places because government funding does not cover the true cost of quality early years education. We understand that the Government are saying that funded childcare is “free” but the reality is that the funding received does not cover the nursery running costs and the quality of care we provide.

Historically, settings have covered this cost by charging for all the additional things they do, over and above a ‘basic provision’.

We have always covered the cost of our enhanced provision by making a termly charge called “Quality Premium”. This has allowed us to provide our funded children with a rich curriculum full of learning opportunities and experiences. At CS Nursery Schools Ltd, we want to continue offering funded places, but this is only possible if parents understand why we make a termly consumables and enhanced provision charge and ‘opt-in’ to continue to pay it, as they have been doing since we opened.

Without this cost being met in this way, we may need to reduce the level of enrichment activities we provide or stop providing funded places in the future. We appreciate that our parents have opted to send their child to CS Nursery Schools Ltd as they want the full experience for them. Charging a termly ‘Quality premium’ fee to parents accessing our enhanced provision will allow us to maintain the exceptional care, with high staff ratios from highly qualified staff with paediatric first aid, safeguarding qualifications, who have worked within our nurseries for many years, allowing us to provide the learning experiences we are known for.