Funding Information for Children From 9 Months Old

CHAPEL GRANGE
Montessori Nursery School

The following information is intended to provided parents guidance as to how and what is covered within the Governments Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) scheme.

Government funding does NOT cover the costs of providing nutritious meals and snacks, other consumables such as sun cream and nappies, additional hours, or educational outings and enrichment activities.

At Chapel Grange Montessori Nursery, we have always believed these items to be a key part of our ability to provide the highest quality care and education, supporting the development of children, and ensuring a nurturing and engaging environment.

The Early Education Entitlement Compliance Guidance means the nursery must charge separately for these Essential and Extra items, in order to ensuring the commercial sustainability of our setting.

These are Optional Services, and should you wish to opt out of paying any of these additional fees, there are alternatives available to you, these are set out in the Essentials & Extras Funding information below.

Alternatives may include attending on fully funded days (Monday and Friday) with parents providing their own consumables in line with our Funded Day Consumable Policy, and children not taking part in extracurricular activities.

To aid with business planning, opt-outs are done termly, and we must be notified **30 days** before the start of the term. Please speak to Jenny the Nursery Manager if you wish to opt out.

Please be aware, funding is only provided by the government for 38 weeks of the year.

- **Spring Term** - January 1st – March 31st (12 weeks are funded)
- **Summer Term** - April 1st August 31st (12 weeks are funded)
- **Autumn Term** - September 1st – December 31st (14 weeks are funded)

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Parent declaration funding forms are issued every term which must be completed by the parents and returned as soon as possible as we cannot apply for your funding without a completed form.

Important Note:

Please ensure eligibility codes have been obtained before the start of each term, or they will not be valid.

Parents are required to reconfirm their code every 3 months and will be reminded to do so via an email or text from Childcare Choices

Chapel Grange Montessori is currently open all year round and offering the current sessions:

- Full Day 8.00am – 6.00pm
- School day 8.00am – 4.00pm
- Morning Session 8.00am – 1.00pm
- Afternoon Session 1.00pm – 6.00pm

To comply with the Early Education Entitlement Compliance (EEEC), the nursery will be making changes to its operations as outlined below. These changes will not take effect until January 2026, allowing everyone sufficient time to adjust.

From January 2026 – New sessions

- School day (A) 8.00am – 4.00pm
- School day (B) 8.00am – 5.00pm
- Full Day 8.00am – 6.00pm

- Stretched hours from September 2025:
  Your 30 hours per week given by the government are used for 38 weeks of the year stretched. Meaning you will receive 22 hours of funding a week across the full year, or 11 hours a week if you are only eligible for the Universal 3-year 15 hours funding.
- An Essential & Extras fee is charged to All funded sessions (Unless you have opted out)
- We always show a breakdown within your monthly invoice of how your funding has been applied.
- Funding is applied for 3 times a year through Cheshire East Council
- Should your situation change, and you are no longer eligible for the extended working family funding, please let us know so we can adjust your funding and fees accordingly.

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Essential & Extra's

(**Food and Consumables Policy for Funded Days**)

There is an option for parents to choose for the nursery **not** to provide food and hygiene consumables.

- This option is **only available for children attending fully funded days**, which are offered on **Mondays and Fridays**.
- We do not offer a "mix and match" arrangement between opt-in and opt-out days.

If you wish to opt out and move to a fully funded day, please speak with Jenny, the Nursery Manager, who will provide you with further details of our **Funded Day Consumable Policy**.

For all **full-price non-funded days** (private paying) or **combined funded/private sessions**, the nursery provides all meals, snacks, hygiene consumables, and extracurricular activities. This is covered by our **Essentials and Extras daily charge**, which is:

- **£15.00 per full funded day**
- **£7.50 per half funded day**

This charge has remained unchanged for the past **three years**.

Please note:

- A **fully funded day** equates to **ten hours of funding**.
- Two fully funded days equate to **twenty hours of funding**.

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Working Parent Funding From 9 Months Old

You must be working and earning at least the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national living or minimum wage, but less than £100,000 a year. If you are a couple, then this applies to each of you – if one of you doesn't work, or one of you earns over £100,000, you won't be eligible.

30 Hours a Week

For children aged 9 months and older, you're eligible for up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week.

Over 38 weeks, this would total 30×38=1140 hours.

In order to maintain our commitment to ensure parents receive a consistent bill regardless of when they become eligible for their funding, the hours are stretched evenly over 52 weeks equalling 22 hours per week.

Application Process

To apply, set up a childcare account. Different schemes exist in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. If you pay for childcare and want help with costs through Tax-Free Childcare, you can apply using the same service.

Application Timing

Apply for up to 30 hours of funded childcare when your child is 23 weeks old. If you're returning to work, the timing depends on your start date.

Requirements

You'll need your National Insurance number, Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) if self-employed, and other relevant details.

Remember, eligibility criteria may vary, so it's best to check the official government website for the most up-to-date information3- & 4-Year-old funding 15hrs/30hrs

Eligibility and further information can be checked on the government Childcare Choices website

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Universal Funding for 3 & 4 Years olds

15 hours of funded childcare is available for every family in England with 3 and 4-year-old children.

You will receive 15 hours of funded childcare per eligible child per week during term time (38 weeks), totalling 570 hours per year. We will stretch this funding evenly over 52 weeks, which is 11 hours per week.

Your child will be entitled the term after they turn 3

Children Born	Eligible from the start of the term beginning or following
1 January – 31st March	Summer Term 1st April
1st April – 31st August	Autumn Term 1st September
1st September – 31st December	Spring Term 1st January

Government Supported Funding

Parents of 2 year olds who are in receipt of certain benefits are able to check their eligibility for 15 hours funded childcare via Cheshire East's webpage, or by contacting the Family Information Service on 0300 123 5033.

Eligibility codes are 6 digits and are a mixture of letters and numbers.

Unlike the working family entitlement, parents who receive a 6-digit code will continue to be eligible for a 2-year-old place until their child turns 3 and receives 3-year-old funding.

Additional Help

EYPP Funding

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is available to early years providers who offer government-funded early education places. This funding is aimed at improving the education of disadvantaged children aged 9 months and above.

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DAF Funding

Disability Access Funding (DAF) is available to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Children become eligible for DAF once they start receiving government-funded early education, which can begin from 9 months of age depending on eligibility.

Please note, DAF is not automatically available to all children with SEND - eligibility is specifically linked to receiving DLA.

Further Information:

Get extra funding for your early years provider - GOV.UK

Tax-free childcare (TFC)

The rules for TFC are similar to those of the 30 hours funding, for example you (and your partner) need to be working and earning more than national minimum wage but less than £100,000 a year.

You should open an online account through the government website which you use to pay for your childcare. For every 80p you pay in, the government will top up an extra 20p.

- For every pound you pay for your childcare, you're getting a 20% contribution from the government.
- The government will top up the account with 20% of childcare costs up to a total of £10,000 - the equivalent of up to £2,000 support per child, per year (or £4,000 for disabled children).
- The scheme covers all your children, including adopted children, provided they live with you and are under the age of 12 years, (or 17 for children with disabilities
- Nursery Bank details for when you sign up

Account Name: Chapel Grange Montessori Nursery Ltd
Sort Code: 60-11-13-
Account Number: 53419049

Further information can be checked on the government Childcare Choices website.

Fee Structure 2026

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9 months to 24 months (from January 2026):		
Full Day:	8:00am to 6:00pm	**£94.50**
School Day A:	8:00am to 4:00pm	**£75.60**
School Day B:	8:00am to 5:00pm	**£85.05**
Sibling Discount:	10% (The discount is deducted from the younger child)	
Full Time Discount:	10% (Applied when attending 5 full days)	

24 months to 5 years (from January 2026):		
Full Day:	8:00am to 6:00pm	**£83.50**
School Day A:	8:00am to 4:00pm	**£66.80**
School Day B:	8:00am to 5:00pm	**£75.15**
Sibling Discount:	10% (The discount is deducted from the younger child)	
Full Time Discount:	10% (Applied when attending 5 full days)	

Refundable Deposit: Equal to 4 Weeks full paying fees (*Payable one month before starting & Refundable after final fees are settled)*

The nursery operates both 15- & 30-hour FEEE Grant Funding which applies to the term after a child turns 3 years old and from 9 months old (if eligible). This is available for 38 weeks of the year and spread over the whole year.

Funded children are charged an Essentials and Extras fee of £15.00 per Full Day or School Day and £7.50 per Half Day. This is the provision of food, extracurricular activities, Montessori equipment and hygiene consumables.

Should you wish to opt out of the Nursery providing Essential and Extras, we offer fully funded days on Mondays & Fridays only. Please ask for more information regarding these places.

Billing:

Invoices are raised monthly for the following month's fees and are emailed at the beginning of the month, and payment is due before 10th. Method of payment is a bank transfer. The nursery accepts childcare vouchers and tax-free childcare payments through the Government Portal. Any extra hours are added to the next month's invoices.

No deductions are made for absenteeism, e.g. holiday, sickness.

A Late Collection fee will be charged for repeated late pickup at £5.00 per 5 minutes to cover staff hours.

The nursery is open all year, shutting for one week at Christmas where we do not charge fees.

***All other days that do not fall in the closure week are chargeable; this includes Bank Holidays.**

Chapel Grange
Dean Row Road
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 2BU Tel: 01625 532083 E-mail: Wilmslow@chapelgrange.co.uk

Funded Days Consumable Policy

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Chapel Grange Montessori has always been committed to providing a comprehensive and inclusive learning environment for all our children and families, in line with the Montessori philosophy.

Meals are an essential part of the Montessori curriculum where children have the opportunity to prepare the tables by laying place mats, cutlery, classes and water jugs for themselves and their peers. Children take it turns to serve each other at meal times and support clearing away operation all of which fall under the Montessori "**Practical Life**" curriculum which promote the development of motor skills since we use real plates and glasses. Our meal times are a fully inclusive daily event and are important to the social development and interaction of our children.

Recent changes under the **Early Education Entitlement Compliance (EEEC)** require us to review our structure and policies to ensure full compliance while continuing to maintain the high standards of care and education we are proud to deliver.

Food Policy

Since opening in 1996, Chapel Grange Montessori has provided freshly prepared meals daily, often using produce grown by the children at nursery and the nursery is proud of its consistent **5 star Food Hygiene** rating.

Good nutrition is central to children's healthy growth, concentration, and learning. Early food education also helps children develop lifelong healthy eating habits.

Meals are an integral part of the Montessori curriculum, providing children with valuable opportunities to take responsibility and develop independence. They prepare the tables by setting out placemats, cutlery, glasses, and water jugs for themselves and their peers. At mealtimes, children take turns serving one another and helping with the clearing away process. These activities fall within the Montessori '**Practical Life**' curriculum, which supports the development of fine and gross motor skills through the use of real plates and glasses. Mealtimes are fully inclusive daily events and play an important role in fostering social development and positive interaction among our children.

In line with EEEC guidance, we now must offer parents the option to provide packed meals and snacks instead of using the nursery's in-house meal service.

Funded Days Consumable Policy

CHAPEL GRANGE
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Aims of this policy:

- To ensure that all meals and snacks, whether provided by the nursery or from home, meet the same nutritional and safety standards.

Objectives:

- To promote healthy eating habits that support growth and long-term wellbeing.
- To encourage awareness among children, parents and carers of the nursery's proactive approach to nutrition.
- To ensure all packed meals/snacks reflect Early Years food standards.
- To ensure food safety is maintained at all times.

Packed Meals

Children's packed meals must include items from the **five main food groups**:

- **Starchy foods** (bread, rice, pasta, potatoes): at least 2 portions, e.g. pasta salad, sandwiches.
- **Fruit & vegetables**: at least 1 portion of fruit and 1 portion of vegetables/salad, e.g. cucumber sticks, cherry tomatoes (quartered), fresh fruit.
- **Milk & dairy**: 1 portion daily, e.g. yoghurt, fromage frais, cheese.
- **Protein (meat, fish, eggs, beans)**: 1 portion daily, e.g. boiled egg sandwich, bean salad.
- **Drinks**: No need to provide. Fresh water and milk are available at nursery.

Please support nursery by NOT including the following in packed meals:

- Foods high in sugar or salt
- Fizzy/sugary drinks
- Chocolate-coated products, sweets, confectionary
- Chocolate spread sandwiches
- Sugared/toffee/salted popcorn
- Crisps or other high-salt/fat snacks
- Any products containing nuts
- Energy drinks

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- Chips, fried foods (e.g. nuggets)
- Meat on the bone

All food must be brought into nursery in a sealed container or bag that should be labelled with the child's name and what meal it is intended for e.g. Breakfast, Lunch or Snack.

Choking Hazards

To protect children, the following items must not be included:

- Whole grapes (must be quartered)
- Whole cocktail sausages/large sausage slices (must be cut lengthways)
- Hot dog sausages
- Marshmallows
- Whole cherry tomatoes (must be quartered)
- Hard raw vegetables or fruit in large chunks (must be cut into batons)
- Whole melon balls (must be quartered)
- Popcorn
- Sticky or difficult-to-chew foods

Where unsafe items are brought in, staff will remove them immediately.

Food Storage & Handling

- Nursery cannot provide fridge space, all meals must be sent in **insulated lunch bags with freezer blocks**.
- Nursery cannot heat or reheat food.

Waste & Monitoring

- Uneaten food will be returned home so parents can monitor their child's daily intake as this will not be recorded on Tapestry.
- Nursery will regularly review packed meal provision. Concerns about nutrition or suitability will be raised sensitively with parents.

Funded Days Consumable Policy

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Chapel Grange Montessori cannot accept responsibility for accidents caused by food provided from home. Staff will always administer immediate first aid where required.

Dining Facilities

The nursery will provide an appropriate area for children to eat their packed food. This arrangement helps to avoid any upset that may arise from children having different food items and also ensures that those with allergies are protected from coming into contact with foods that could be harmful to their health.

Hygiene Consumables on Funded Days

Government funding does not cover **food or hygiene consumables**.

For each funded day, parents must provide a **sealed bag inside the child's backpack** containing:

- 5 disposable nappies/pull-ups (any brand)
- 1 full pack of baby wipes (any brand)
- 6 pairs of medium-sized disposable gloves
- 5 disposable aprons
- 1 pack of nappy bags (any brand)
- Nappy cream labelled with child's name (any brand)
- 1 bottle of sun cream during summer/sunny weather (any brand)

Missing items will incur an additional daily **hygiene consumable** charge.

This policy ensures compliance with EEEC requirements while continuing to safeguard and promote the health, wellbeing, and learning environment of all children at Chapel Grange Montessori.

Funded Days Consumable Policy

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Daily Check List

- Breakfast in a sealed bag with child's name and which meal labelled
- AM Snack in a sealed bag with child's name and which meal labelled
- Lunch in a sealed bag with child's name and which meal labelled
- PM Snack in a sealed bag with child's name and which meal labelled
- Teatime meal in a sealed bag with child's name and which meal labelled
- Hygiene Bag labelled with child's name
- 5 Disposable Nappies / Pullups
- 1 Pack of baby Wipes
- 6 Pairs of disposal gloves
- 5 Pairs disposable Aprons
- 1 Pack of nappy bags to dispose nappies in. (any brand)
- Nappy Cream- labelled with name on (any brand)
- 1 Bottle of suncream during summer / sunny days (any brand)