

Consumables Policy

1. Policy statement

At Little Doves Nursery, we are committed to providing a high-quality, nurturing and inclusive environment where every child can learn, play and thrive.

We recognise that government funding for early education entitlements does not cover all the additional costs associated with providing meals, consumables and optional activities. We therefore offer a voluntary consumables and optional extras charge to help contribute towards these costs.

We encourage families to contribute wherever they are able, as these contributions help us maintain the quality of our provision, provide enriching experiences and ensure children have access to the resources they need throughout the nursery day.

However, payment is entirely voluntary. A family's decision not to contribute will not affect their child's access to their funded early education entitlement. We will work with parents and carers to agree reasonable alternatives where they choose not to pay for some or all of the additional items or services.

2. Voluntary consumables and optional extras charge

The charge is calculated per funded hour and is broken down as follows:

Item	Cost per funded hour
Food	£0.75
Optional activities	£0.25
Consumables, including nappies, wipes and sun cream	£0.50
Total voluntary charge	£1.50

Parents may choose to contribute towards all, some or none of these elements. The charges will be clearly itemised so that families can understand what they are paying for.

The charge applies only to hours covered by the funded entitlement. Any arrangements relating to additional privately paid hours will be set out separately in the nursery's fee information.

3. Food and meals

Our food charge contributes towards the cost of providing meals and snacks during the nursery day.

Where parents choose not to contribute towards the food element, they may provide a packed lunch for their child. This must comply with the nursery's food safety and allergen procedures.

Parents must complete the nursery's **Daily Packed Lunch and Allergen Declaration** for each day a packed lunch is provided. The completed declaration must be handed to a member of staff on arrival.

Packed lunches must:

- Be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Be stored and transported safely.
- Comply with the nursery's allergen management procedures.
- Contain suitable food for the child's age and dietary needs.
- Signed in with staff daily and all food explained in detail

To protect all children, the nursery reserves the right to assess whether a packed lunch can safely be accepted. If there are concerns about ingredients or allergen risks, the Nursery Manager will discuss these with the parent and agree a safe alternative. Where the lunch cannot be accepted, the nursery will seek to provide a suitable meal and discuss any applicable charge with the parent in accordance with the nursery's published charging arrangements.

Where parents opt out of the food charge, Little Doves Nursery will provide breakfast and snacks at its own expense.

4. Activities and enrichment

At Little Doves Nursery, we believe that children learn best through meaningful, hands-on experiences that inspire curiosity, creativity and a sense of wonder about the world around them.

Our programme include additional experiences such as forest school, swimming and activities delivered by external providers. The activities element of the voluntary charge helps towards the costs associated with providing these opportunities.

Children will continue to have access to the nursery's core curriculum and provision regardless of whether their parents contribute towards optional extras.

We want all children to enjoy these extra experiences. However, activities may only be able to continue if enough families choose to contribute towards the costs. If many parents opt out we will have to review our extra curricular activities.

5. Personal consumables

The consumables element contributes towards the cost of personal care items used throughout the nursery day, including:

- Nappies and nappy wipes.
- Sun cream.
- Other agreed personal care consumables.

Parents who choose not to contribute towards this element may supply their own suitable products for their child.

All personal items must be clearly labelled with the child's name and handed to a member of staff where appropriate. Parents are responsible for replenishing supplies and informing the nursery of any specific requirements, allergies or sensitivities.

Where a child requires an essential item that has not been supplied, the nursery will provide this and a charge will be applied to the parents invoice.

6. Opting out of the voluntary charge

Parents and carers may choose to opt out of the full charge or any individual element.

Families should inform the Nursery Manager which elements they wish to opt out of so that suitable arrangements can be agreed. These arrangements may include:

- Providing a packed lunch in place of nursery-provided lunch.
- Supplying nappies, wipes and sun cream.
- Agreeing suitable alternatives for optional extras where necessary.

We understand that every family's circumstances are different and encourage open communication. If a family is experiencing financial difficulties or needs support with providing essential items, they are welcome to speak confidentially with the Nursery Manager.



A child will not be refused a funded place, disadvantaged or treated less favourably because their parent or carer chooses not to pay the voluntary charge. The nursery will ensure that reasonable alternatives are available so that families can access their funded entitlement without being required to purchase optional extras. Please see our funded-only policy.