



## **Consumables charges and alternatives information policy**

The Department for Education issued their latest guidance in February 2025 stating that the Early Years Funding is intended to cover the cost to deliver 15 or 30 hours of free, high quality, flexible childcare. The government are aware that the funding rate they pay will not cover all aspects of a child's care. Settings may charge in addition to the funding to these additional costs within their guidelines. This charge must be voluntary and alternatives must be offered if parents opt out of paying this charge.

Funding DOES NOT cover: consumables used by each child, meals and snacks or additional curriculum enhancement activities. A consumable item is defined as 'something which is used regularly and needs regular replenishment'. The list below is not exhaustive, items not covered by funding include but are not limited to:

**Consumable items:** nappies, wipes, nappy bags, suncream, spare clothes, bags for transporting soiled clothing.

**Food:** Morning snack, snack within extended hours, additional food for special occasions throughout the year such as Diwali, Christmas, different Saints days, food tasting activities, cooking activities and food preparation/life skills with the children.

**Additional curriculum enhancement activities:** trips and visitors, adventure walks and field trips, planting activities, cooking activities, gifts for special occasions such as Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, end of year. Party entertainment. Subscriptions to Tapestry (parent communication app), Forest school including a snack, all activities and its relevant staff training and insurance requirements.

We appreciate that this is an additional cost to you, we have kept this cost to a minimum and we do very much thank you for your cooperation. This helps towards us being able to give your child the best quality experience they can have whilst they are with us. We choose to put on lots of additional activities and events as we believe these experiences enrich the time your child spends with us. We also choose to have more staff each session to increase child and parent engagement. This additional staffing and high quality provision comes at a cost.

Should you have a cause for concern in relation to making this extra payment, please do speak to a member of the management team. In this case we would either:

- Request you to provide weekly a specific item from our designated alternatives list. We try to make savings by buying in bulk but would accept anything regularly from our list instead of paying the charge.
- Reduce the payment amount if the amount requested is not affordable for you.
- Optional inclusion costs, we ask whether you want your child to be included in each event as they arise e.g. parties, gifts and excursions.

In some cases, the alternative would be not accessing the additional activities such as Forest School. However, we strive to be as inclusive as possible and will try to make alternative arrangements.

We pride ourselves and our renowned for, providing a highly engaging, enhanced provision. This is becoming more of a challenge due to the lack of funding provided by the government. Without the consumables charge being paid we risk compromising our vision and having to remove some of the



fun, valuable and rich learning opportunities and experiences that we offer. A reminder we are a registered charity and not looking to make a profit, we just aim to cover our outgoings, which unfortunately the government funding falls far short on. We are extremely fortunate to have such an experienced and passionate staff team, dedicated committee and the benefit of such a wonderful rural location. We can only continue to provide these amazing assets with this financial contribution. The alternative which we fear, would be providing the basic curriculum and care offering which goes against our ethos and aspirations as a setting.

### **Alternatives List**

Items can be regularly supplied from the list below, with agreement from the management team.

- A bag of nappies
- A packet of wipes
- Nappy sacks/bags for soiled clothing
- Nappy Cream (specific one to be agreed)
- Fruit for morning snack (item to be agreed by management team)
- Vegetables for morning snack (item to be agreed by management team)
- Carbohydrate item (item to be agreed by management team)
- Suncream (specific one to be agreed)
- Bottle of hand sanitiser
- Box of tissues
- Additional craft activity packs (celebration specific)
- Spare clothes including rucksacks, waterproofs, boots, hats
- Spare Blankets/bedding
- Cooking items (ingredients, utensils, baking equipment – items to be agreed)
- Spare water bottles
- Party/special events decorations and consumables
- Bag of soil
- Plants/bulbs
- Gifts for special occasions.

Additional items for enhanced provision/trips

- Additional first aid kit and items within (specific items to be agreed)
- Outdoor rucksack (for an adult)
- Walking ropes
- Reins
- High Viz Vests
- Radios/Walkie Talkies

This policy has been adopted by Tandridge Village Pre-School Committee.

Signed on behalf of the Pre-School:

Date:

This policy will be reviewed: Spring 2027

(Unless there is a change in legislation or with direct guidance from an educational body)

Staff Signatures:



Date: