

Blue Windmill Funding Policy

Blue Windmill is committed to delivering government-funded childcare in line with current Early Years funding guidance and local authority requirements.

This policy explains how funded childcare is offered at the nursery, how funding is applied to sessions, and how any additional charges are managed transparently.

Funding Available

Subject to eligibility and government criteria, families may be entitled to:

- 15 hours funded childcare for eligible 2-year-olds
- 15 hours universal funding for 3 and 4-year-olds
- 30 hours funded childcare for eligible working families

Funding eligibility and criteria are determined by the government and local authority and may change from time to time.

Stretched and Term-Time Funding

Government funding is based on annual funded hours:

- 570 funded hours per year for the 15-hour entitlement
- 1,140 funded hours per year for the 30-hour entitlement

Blue Windmill is open for 51 weeks of the year. Where funding is stretched across the full nursery year, this equates to approximately:

- 11.18 funded hours per week for the 15-hour entitlement
- 22.35 funded hours per week for the 30-hour entitlement

The nursery may also offer some term-time-only funded places, subject to availability and operational requirements.

The way funded hours are applied across the week will vary depending on your child's attendance pattern and chosen sessions.

Accessing Funded Places

To access funded childcare, parents must:

- Provide any required eligibility codes
- Renew eligibility codes with HMRC where applicable
- Complete all required parental declaration forms
- Inform the nursery promptly of any changes to eligibility

Funded hours can only be claimed from the term after a child becomes eligible under government rules.

Transparency of Charges

Government funding covers early education and care only. **It does not cover meals, snacks, consumables, additional activities** or childcare hours beyond the funded entitlement.

Blue Windmill aims to be transparent about all charges and clearly separates:

- Funded childcare hours
- Additional childcare hours
- Food charges
- Consumables charges
- Activities charges

Any charges relating to food, consumables or activities are voluntary and are explained separately within our fee information and related policies. Families may provide their own meals or consumables when accessing funded-only sessions.

Families may choose to:

- Access funded childcare only
- Purchase additional services and hours
- Choose one of our all-inclusive fee packages

Children accessing funded-only places will continue to receive their funded entitlement and access to the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

Booking Patterns and Availability

Funded hours are applied only to sessions your child is booked to attend.

Session availability, attendance patterns and funded places are subject to operational capacity and staffing requirements.

Some session patterns or funding models may have limited availability.

Parents may split funded hours between more than one provider, within government funding rules.

Attendance Expectations

Regular attendance is important to support children's wellbeing, development and continuity of care.

Where funded sessions are booked, families are expected to use those sessions consistently wherever possible and inform the nursery of absences in line with nursery procedures.

Where attendance concerns arise, the nursery will work in partnership with families to support regular attendance and ensure funding is being used appropriately.

Monthly Billing

Blue Windmill operates an equalised monthly billing system across the nursery year.

This means:

- Fees are spread evenly across 12 months
- Funding is applied according to your child's entitlement and attendance pattern
- Charges remain consistent to support straightforward monthly budgeting