



## **Play, learn, grow together**

### **30 hour Funding and Sundries Policy**

Aspley Guise Preschool provides funded places to eligible children (please see appendix for eligibility). We offer 15 hours Universal funding places to all eligible children and, all eligible children are also able to apply for a 30 hour funded place. We offer 2 year old funding for children who are not yet old enough to receive Universal funding and who are entitled to 2 year old funding.

Providers do not have to offer any funded places, this is discretionary.

“Government funding is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services”. (Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance DfE Effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, Updated 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025)

This means that the funding we are awarded funds the care your child receives such as staffing costs however it does not cover all the additional costs providers need to meet such as snack charges, resources, additional services such as music groups and Forest School activities. This means the costs incurred to providers can be split into ‘the care element’ which is funded from the government’ and ‘resources and consumables’ which is not met by the governments funded offer.

While we receive funding for ‘the care element’ to provide staffing, at Aspley Guise Preschool, part of our ethos is to provide a higher ratio of staff than the minimum required as is calculated in the government’s formula when setting the funding rates. If we were to adhere to this funding formula, we would have 8 children for every 1 member of staff. However, we always aim to have at least 1 member of staff to every 4-6 children which gives the staff more time with each child and allows the children to take part in additional activities such as Forest school sessions and walking trips within the local area, all of which broaden the children’s knowledge and understanding. We also include weekly music sessions with an external music teacher and daily yoga or Healthy Movers sessions.

To be able to offer these additional resources and activities, we charge an hourly sundries charge for each funded hour that children attend (please see parent contract for charges).

In addition to sundries charges, parents will be charged for warm meals and nappy costs as appropriate (whether their child is receiving funding or not).

The maximum weekly funded hours offered at Aspley Guise Preschool is 29.5 hours a week. We offer funded places on a termly basis, over 38 weeks a year between the hours of 8:45-3:15.

Funding is not offered during After School Club or Holiday Club Sessions.

Eligibility for receipt of 30 hours funding is no guarantee that a 30 hour place is available. In addition, it is not necessary for parents to take up the full 30 hours to receive funding. If a parent is using part of their 30 hours funding and then wants to increase their child’s sessions to include the full 30 hours, Aspley guise Preschool will facilitate this where possible in line with sessions available on our waiting list, but it must be recognised that the pre-school may not have these sessions available.

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It is the parent's responsibility to apply for their funded place and 30 hour code.

Persistent non-attendance may result in your 30 hour place being offered to another child on the waiting list.

#### Additional charges

All children, irrespective of receipt of 15 or 30 hour funding, will be expected to pay additional charges for:

\* Any other sessions normally incurring extra cost, predominantly extra-curricular activities (e.g. Tennis, French)

\* Any ad hoc sessions

\* Any late collection fees incurred

#### APPENDIX: Child eligibility for receipt of funding

Please note the following section is for information only and pertains to the eligibility of a child to receive childcare funding from the government, NOT to Aspley Guise Preschool's acceptance of such funding. For more information on funding eligibility criteria please see [30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/free-nursery-and-childcare)

All children are eligible to claim 15 hours funding the term after their third birthday.

*For example, if your child is due to turn three on 10th October, the child would be eligible to receive funding in the following January.*

From April 2024, working parents of 2 year olds will be able to claim funding. *For example, if your child turns three on 10<sup>th</sup> October and they start preschool in September (as children can start the term in which they turn 3), they will be able to claim funding from September.*

\* Every child is eligible to receive 15 hours of funding per week from the government, irrespective of any criteria.

\* Application deadlines to receive funding for any given term are set by the government, not by the pre-school, and unfortunately the pre-school has no ability to waive these deadlines.

\* If you no longer meet the eligibility criteria, your child's 30-hour place may continue to be funded for a 'grace period' (usually the remainder of the term). You should discuss this with your provider if and when you lose eligibility. The decision for the funding to continue for a 'grace period' is made by the local authority (Central Beds) and not by the pre-school.

#### Tax Free Childcare

Parents can use Tax Free Childcare in conjunction with a funded place if they are eligible. This can save you up to £2,000 a year in childcare costs.

More information can be found at; [Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/free-nursery-and-childcare)

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### Sundries charges

We believe that a sundries charge allows us to deliver an exceptional standard of care and education. The charge includes weekly music lessons, daily yoga or Healthy Movers sessions, morning and afternoon snacks alongside providing a higher ratio of staffing with experienced and highly trained staff members.

If a parent decides they do not wish to contribute to the sundries charge they will be asked to contribute to snack charges and consumables as deemed appropriate which may include providing resources which are already included in the sundries charge. Parents will be charged in line with the sundries cost unless they make their wishes otherwise known to the preschool management.

All parents will be charged for warm meals and nappy charges as appropriate.

Any parent facing financial hardship who feels they need to discuss these contributions should feel free to discuss their situation with the management team.