

Admissions & Waiting List Policy

Admissions are made to ensure that each setting operates to as near full capacity as possible, as set out by Ofsted registrations.

Admissions are made at the discretion of the management but places are available to everyone in the community who require day care, before & after school care, holiday club or wraparound care for their children, whilst they are, primarily, at work. Admissions are available all year round without reference to ability or aptitude.

Once a visit has taken place and an interest expressed applications for a place must be made via the Registration Form & Parental Agreement, which is given out at every visit or available to download from the website. One form per child will be required. A Registration Fee will become payable when the form is handed in. This fee is still payable to be placed on the Waiting List. The Registration Fee is not payable for children taking up a government funded only place and taking no settling visits outside of the funded entitlement, settling visits may be taken during the funded only hours if required. Where no Registration Fee is taken then a Refundable Deposit will be charged at a similar rate. This will be refunded within a reasonable amount of time of starting. If a place cannot be found then it will be refunded within 2 weeks of our knowing this. If a place is offered but the parent chooses not to take this up then the deposit or registration fee will not be refunded.

The completion of a Registration Form does not in itself guarantee an offer of a place, as this will be decided by the available places that we have on offer at that time. Place allocation is a complex matter and some sessions have limited availability which is dependent on the number of full time equivalent places being taken up. Times of our NIL COST Sessions are shown in our Price Lists. All parents have the same right to access our NIL COST sessions and these will be allocated in line with the rules below.

If there are more applications than places available then places will be allocated by the Manager, firstly to those who have completed the relevant forms and paid their fee or deposit (on a date received basis). Full-time and full-day places will take priority over part-time places and sibling places will take priority over new applicants. Where a place cannot be found then children will be placed on a Waiting List.

All new registrations will be acknowledged and the details will be entered onto our database. When a place has been confirmed then the child or children will be booked into the base room for their settling visits as per the agreed schedule. These will preferably take place in the weeks immediately before starting. In emergency admissions then these settling visits may need to be altered to accommodate the child's and parent's needs.

Waiting List Allocation Criteria

Children will remain on the Waiting List until a place becomes available. Where we have a waiting list for Nil Cost places these will be allocated on the following priority basis: Children who have been eligible for 2 year funding; children who qualify for EYPP; siblings of children in the previous categories. If we cannot find a place in the timescale required then any Registration or Deposit Fees will be returned.

Flexible Funded Childcare & Education Offer

“Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high quality flexible childcare. It is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional activities. Parents can therefore expect to pay for any meals offered by the provider alongside their free entitlement. Parents can also expect to pay for other consumables or additional activities offered by the provider, such as nappies or trips. Where parents choose to purchase additional hours of provision, consumables or additional activities, this is a private matter between the provider and the parent.”

Operational Guidance June 2018

Children may access some or all of their funded entitlement with us. Children attending 2 settings will have their 15/30 hours split between the settings. The decision about which hours go to which setting is usually, but not always, the choice of the parent. We will advise of our understanding of this if you choose to make such a split.

Not all of our funded sessions are NIL Cost and we have limited spaces available on this basis. We do not have a specific number of places we allocate at NIL COST but we have to ensure that we balance our staffing with our numbers and overall attendance patterns, therefore this means we may not always have the session you require.

15 funded hours for 2 year olds are available for eligible families (see government criteria on their website), either with or without additional hours. Our only other charge is for Hot Lunch at £2.60 if you attend for funded hours only. Hours can be taken flexibly over a minimum of 2 days, over 48 weeks. Please note though that if attending for funded only hours, this attendance pattern may be changed once 3 yr entitlement starts, as our spaces in our Pre-school rooms are managed term by term. Although we aim to offer continuity of care for your child at all times.

At the age of 3 years your child is eligible for the universal 570 hours of funded education which we offer flexibly over 51 weeks or as an enhanced stretched offer of 576 hours for 48 weeks of the year. We also have some limited places to offer for 38 weeks. Our various sessions are shown in the tables in our Price Lists and where parents choose to access an Enhanced Offer, over and above the basic government funded provision, then there is an additional charge that covers these additional services. These services include, but are not limited to, snacks, lunches, trips outside the nursery, parties for children, equipment or gifts that the children take home such as for Mother’s or Father’s Day and other such specific activities that the nursery buys in specifically for children. You are not obliged to take up these additional services and you can access your funded only hours at NIL COST over the 38 weeks. Where you choose to attend all year round then your total funding entitlement will be accounted for on your invoice and shown as a number of hours funded entitlement. The balance relates to the fees for your remaining childcare.

A further 570 hours of extended entitlement childcare are available for eligible families. The eligibility criteria for this is available on the governments website. It is the parent’s responsibility to check their eligibility through HMRC and they must provide an eligibility code to the Local Authority prior to being able to take up the extended offer. We offer our ‘30 hours’ in a similar way to our 15 hours as 1152 hours stretched over 48 weeks of the year, giving an average of 24 hours per week, or flexibly over 51 weeks. We are able to offer limited places at NIL COST for 48 weeks of the year, using our usual admissions criteria. Our various available sessions are shown in our price list. Where you choose to attend all year round then your total funding

entitlement will be accounted for on your invoice and shown as a number of hours funded entitlement. The balance relates to the fees for your remaining childcare.

Should your eligibility for 30 hours change then the company reserves the right to offer you an alternative place, with an altered attendance pattern, based on the Universal Entitlement as places are allocated dependent on the total number of hours in the settings. We will always endeavour to ensure continuity of care for your child in order to support their remaining with the setting but have limited spaces for some sessions.

Grace Periods have been put in place to support families where their circumstances and therefore their eligibility might change. These are available from your Local Authority website.

Complaints Procedure for the Government Funded Entitlement

If you consider that your funded place has not be provided correctly, or the terms of your contract have not been fully explained, then you should make a complaint, initially in writing to the Manager of your setting, who will either handle this directly or pass along to her senior for a response. If you still do not get a satisfactory answer to your complaint within 4 weeks, then you may copy your complaint directly to the Nursery Owner through email@happydaysnursery.co.uk and you will receive a response within 2 weeks of it being received there.

If you still consider the complaint has not been dealt with satisfactorily then you may contact the Local Authority in which the setting operates and follow their complaints procedure. It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to ensure we are delivering our funded hours within the national guidelines and whilst we might not offer our funding in the way you might like to access it, the Local Authority can help you in finding a setting that might better suit your needs, if this is the cause of your complaint.

Ofsted are not concerned with, or have time to deal with, issues relating to funding or fee charges that are made for childcare or education. Their responsibilities lie clearly with the regulation and inspection of the welfare and safeguarding requirements and the children's learning and development.

Any other complaints about funding should be made directly to the Ombudsman or Department for Education via gov.uk or your local MP.

Review of Policy This policy is reviewed annually. Review date – April 2025