



Funded Childcare Policy

What our Parents can expect:

Purple Willows will take effective measures to ensure that our admissions information is clear and accessible for parents.

Policy Statement:

Purple Willows have adopted this policy in line with the government initiative of funded childcare. Our Setting takes the right approach to be clear and transparent about which hours / sessions can be taken as free provision and this is consistent for all parents taking up free hours. Our model for Universal and Extended Funded Childcare is based on a framework that enable parents to receive many benefits with great satisfaction. Government Funding is intended to cover the cost to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high quality, flexible childcare. It is not intended to cover the cost of meals, consumables, additional hours, or additional services. Meals and consumables are charged separately as “Extra Charges” when taking a funded entitlement place and these are reviewed annually and at least one month’s advance notice will be given should the Extra charges be changed

Universal and Extended Funded Childcare from Purple Willows

If your child is 3 to 4 years old and you are claiming Universal Credit you may be able to get up to 30 hours of childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year, and this is equivalent to 22.35 hours per week all year around.

All 3 to 4 year old children are entitled to 15 hours funded childcare for 38 weeks. This is equivalent to 570 hours for the year as stretched offer from Purple Willows. Those children eligible for '30 hours' can receive a maximum of 1140 hours per year

'extended entitlement'. If however, your child turns 3 after the 1st September, the calculation for the Funded hours is slightly different due to different term lengths and therefore, allocations are adjusted accordingly.

Eligibility

Your eligibility depends on:

- if you are working
- your income (and your partner's income, if you have one)
- your child's age and circumstances
- your immigration status

You can get 30 hours free childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits, childcare vouchers or Tax-Free Childcare.

If you are working

You can usually get 30 hours free childcare if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in work
- on sick leave or annual leave
- on shared parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave

If you're on adoption leave for a child aged 3 to 4 years old, you must return to work within 31 days of the date you first apply for 30 hours free childcare for that child.

If you are not currently working

You may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you get Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance.

You can apply if you're starting or re-starting work within the next 31 days.

How to apply

Parents must apply through www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to confirm eligibility. They will need to give details of one or more of these documents - UK Passport, Tax credits, P60, Recent payslip and National Insurance number to verify their identity. They must also have access to a landline or mobile whilst completing the application. Parents can get further help from HMRC Helpline – 0300 123 4097.

Once parents have confirmed their details and eligibility, they will be given 11-digit eligibility code, which must be provided to the nursery office. Without the code, Purple Willows is unable to offer you 30 hours place only the universal 15 hours.

In addition to the 11-digit eligibility code, Purple Willows will also require a copy of the child's birth certificate and the signed parent contract containing,

- Parents NI or NASS,
- Parents Date of Birth
- Childs date of birth
- Proof of Age – Birth Certificate

Once you have provided us this key information, we will check on the Council's Online Eligibility Funded Entitlement (OEFE).

Parents are expected to recheck eligibility every 3 months with HMRC.

Funding Claim

Children become eligible the term after they turn 3 years old until they start reception class. Parents can apply for the extended entitlement the term their child turns 3 years old.

| Child's Birthday | Online Application | Claim Period |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 January – 31 March | 1st January | 1st April onwards |
| 1 April – 31 August | 1st April | 1st September onwards |
| 1 September – 31 December | 1st September | 1st January onwards |

Parents can only access their 30 hour funded place the term after they have been confirmed eligible. No child can start accessing the 30 hours part way through the term. For example, two children turn 3 years old on the 1st May but one parent applies on the 31st August so the funding starts 1st September but the other parent doesn't apply until the 1st September so their funding won't start until the 1st January.

Stand-Alone Funded Childcare Offering

Purple Willows offers eligible families funded childcare as a 'stretched' offer for 51 weeks on a sessional basis only. This equates to 11.16 hours per week for Universal Funded Childcare and 22.35 hours per week for Extended Funded Childcare, totalling 570 hours and 1,140 hours per year respectively.

Essentials and Extras Fee

Purple Willows acknowledges that Early Years Funding covers childcare delivery only and does not include costs for meals, snacks, consumables, additional services, or extra hours. Therefore, we implement an Essentials and Extras fee for every funded hour booked to cover these additional costs. The fee varies per nursery and is detailed on the nursery's fee sheet.

Discretionary Waivers

To support families in need, Purple Willows may consider reducing or waiving the Essentials and Extras fee on a case-by-case basis. Circumstances taken into consideration include receipt of Support 2-year-old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), receipt of a means-tested benefit, or any other extenuating financial circumstances. Decisions regarding waivers will be made by nursery management to ensure fairness and transparency.

Limited Number of Funded Childcare Places

While striving to provide subsidized childcare, the availability of funded childcare places without charging for extras is limited. This is essential to meet legal requirements for ratios, wages, and development activities and to maintain the

nursery's financial sustainability. The allocation of these spaces will be determined at the nursery's discretion on a case-by-case basis.

Parents Bringing Packed Lunches/Snacks

In line with our commitment to ensuring a safe environment for all children, Purple Willows does not allow families to bring their own food, such as packed lunches, into the nursery. This policy aims to mitigate allergen risks and ensure proper storage and handling of food within the nursery environment.

Inclusion Policy

Purple Willows is committed to inclusivity and will not, under any circumstance, exclude a child who wishes to participate in nursery activities such as trips, parties, forest school education, etc., unless the child's parents or carers have explicitly indicated otherwise.

Registration Fees and Deposits:

Purple Willows will not apply registration fees to funded hours spaces and this include those in receipt of 15 hours Universal or 30 hours extended entitlement. We however may obtain a deposit of £200 to secure your child place. This is refundable at the end of your child's enrolment with the nursery or after they have started receiving their childcare funding.

Policy Review

Purple Willows reserves the right to amend this policy and make changes to the way we accept universal and extended hours childcare with written confirmation given to families the term before new funding starts.

