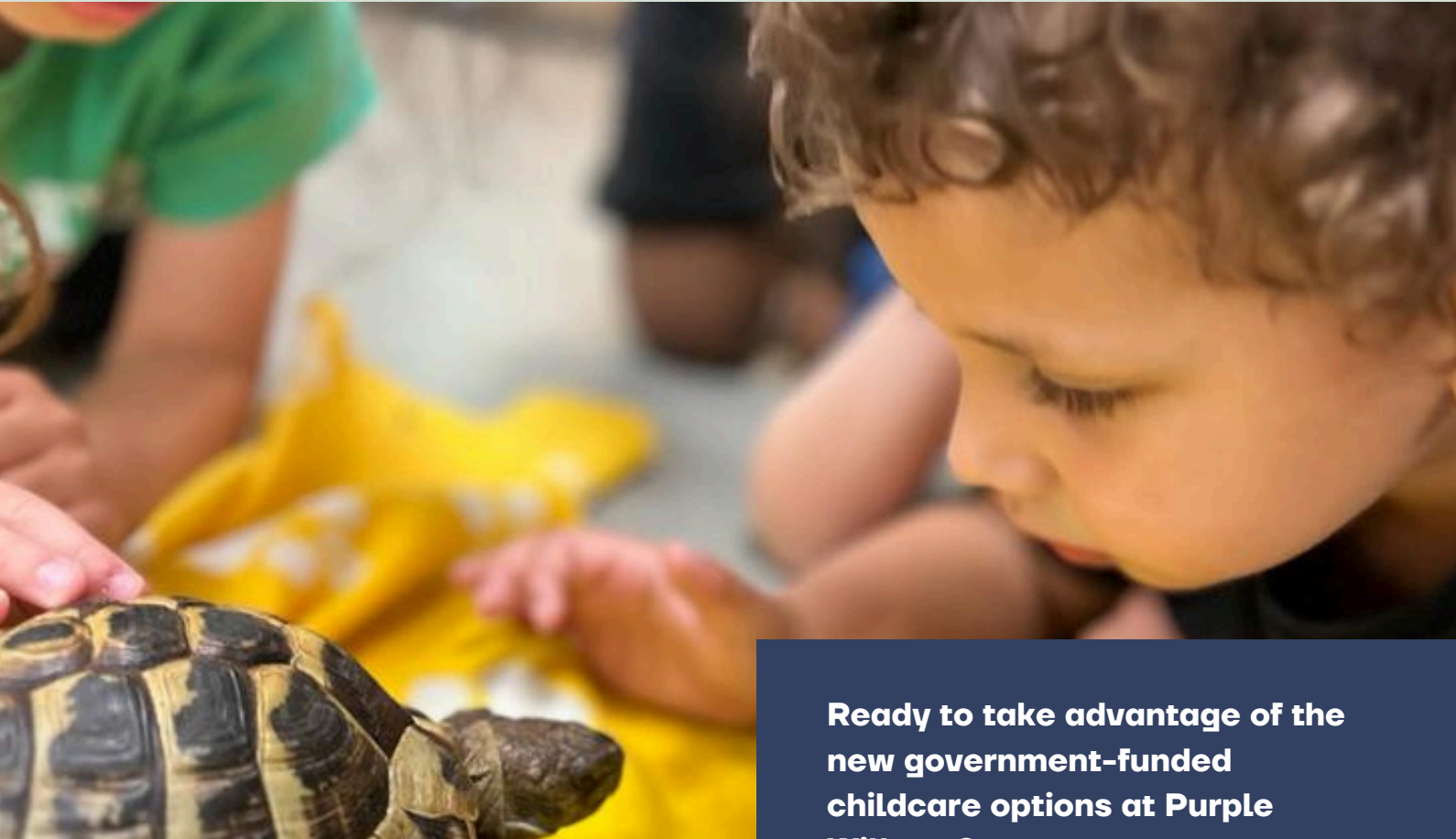


# A guide to Childcare Cost and Funding

# Purple Willows



Starting in September 2024, eligible working parents with children aged nine months to 3 years will receive 15 hours of childcare support per week, beginning the term after the child turns nine months old.

From September 2025, this support will increase to 30 hours per week for eligible working parents of children aged nine months to school, beginning the term after the child turns nine months old.

**Ready to take advantage of the new government-funded childcare options at Purple Willows?**

Don't hesitate to get in touch with us! Our team is here to answer any questions you may have and assist you in accessing the support you need to give your child the best start in life





# Welcome to Purple Willows!

This brief guide will explore Purple Willows' offerings and highlight key considerations. Choosing the right childcare for your child is a significant decision. We're here to help you navigate our offerings and provide information on available funding options to make this process easier.

## Funding Guide

Purple Willows remains committed to providing flexible payment plans and sibling discounts to support families with varying financial needs further. We aim to make quality childcare accessible to all families, regardless of income level.





# Funding Explained



## UNIVERSAL AND EXTENDED FUNDING

Government funding for childcare serves as a crucial resource, assisting families in accessing affordable childcare options. In England, two primary government funding programs aim to alleviate the financial burden of childcare: the 15 hours and 30 hours free funded childcare schemes. However, it's important to note that entitlement to these schemes has changed since April 2024. For more details on these changes, please refer to page 5.



### 15 HOURS UNIVERSAL FUNDING

All three- and four-year-old children qualify for 15 hours of free funded childcare across 38 weeks of term time. This funding becomes available at the start of the term following your child's third birthday.



## UNIVERSAL FUNDING

At Purple Willows, we understand that families may have different needs and preferences regarding childcare attendance. That's why we offer the option to 'stretch' these free funded hours over the full year. This allows your child to attend our childcare facility every week, helping them establish a routine, while also evenly spreading the associated fees over the entire year.

### Age 3-4

15 hours a week: For everyone; no need to apply. Contact us to ask about a place.

30 hours a week: For eligible working parents. Apply at [Childcare Choices - childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://childcarechoices.gov.uk)

### Age 2

15 hours a week: For families receiving benefits or on a low wage. Also, for children looked after, families with no recourse to public funds, children receiving DLA or with an EHCP. Please contact your local authority for further information.



# Extended Funding Hours



## 30 HOURS EXTENDED FUNDING

Purple Willows takes pride in offering enhanced support to working parents through the 30-hour Extended Funding scheme. This initiative enables parents to manage their work obligations effectively while ensuring their child receives high-quality childcare and early education.

Purple Willows is committed to providing flexibility and convenience to families by offering the 30-hour Extended Free Funding as a 'stretched' offer over the full year (51 weeks). This means that parents can spread their funded hours evenly throughout the year, ensuring consistent childcare support for their child.

By participating in the 30-hour Extended Free Funding scheme and offering flexible arrangements, Purple Willows aims to support working parents in achieving a healthy work-life balance while providing their child with enriching early education experiences.

## Check Eligibility

Parents interested in accessing the 30 hours Extended Funding can easily check their eligibility by visiting the government's dedicated website at <https://www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working>



## Flexible Funding Options



# CHANGES TO ELIGIBILITY AND AVAILABILITY

Families with children aged 3 and above can receive 30 hours of funded childcare the term following your child's 3rd birthday or the term following the date the eligibility code was issued – whichever is later.



This change aims to provide greater flexibility and assistance to families with children under the age of 5, enabling parents to balance work and family responsibilities more effectively

**April 2024:** Eligible families with children aged 2 and above will become entitled to 15 hours of free funded childcare per week, beginning the term following the child's 2nd birthday.

**September 2024:** Eligibility for funded childcare will extend to families with children aged 9 months and above, who will qualify for 15 hours of free funded childcare starting the term after they are 9 months.

**September 2025:** The expansion continues, with families with children aged 9 months and above becoming eligible to receive 30 hours of free funded childcare starting the term after they are 9 months.

**"We'll continue  
to strive for  
excellence"**

From September 2025, eligible working parents of children aged 9 months until they start school may be able to get 30 hours of free funding starting the term after they are 9 months.

Eligible working parents means that each parent is working and earning under £100k per year and at least £167 per week (equal to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage)

# UNDERSTANDING THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT FUNDING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Extending the free funded childcare entitlement to children as young as 9 months gives families more options for affordable and high-quality childcare services.

## HOW MANY HOURS OF CHILDCARE CAN I GET A WEEK?

AGE 3-4 YEARS			
All Parents			
15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours
Now	April 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Working Families			
30 hours	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours
Now	April 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

AGE 2 YEARS			
Families with special circumstances			
15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours
Now	April 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Working Families		
15 hours	15 hours	30 hours
April 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

AGE 9 - 23MONTHS	
Working Families	
15 hours	30 hours
Sept 2024	Sept 2025

FUNDED HOURS ARE AVAILABLE THE TERM AFTER YOUR CHILD TURNS THE RELEVANT AGE. APPLY BEFORE 31 MARCH, 31 AUGUST, OR 31 DECEMBER.

Government funding plays a crucial role in supporting families with childcare costs and ensuring access to quality early education for children.

## Funded early learning hours is increasing

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require further information about this upcoming change or how it may affect your family's childcare arrangements.





# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PARENTS

Parents seeking to access government-funded childcare must meet certain eligibility criteria, including:

- Working a minimum of 16 hours per week.
- Having an individual annual income of less than £100,000.
- Being on sick leave or parental leave.
- Possibly remaining eligible while claiming other benefits.

The funded hours are typically provided across 38 weeks during term time. However, eligible families can access these hours throughout the year, even during school holidays. At Purple Willows, we offer the option to 'stretch' free funded hours. This allows families to access a portion of their funded hours over a longer period, typically spread across the year instead of the standard 38 weeks of term time.

## ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY FOR 15 HOURS FUNDED PLACES FOR 2-YEAR-OLDS

In addition to the standard eligibility criteria for government-funded childcare, we also offer the scheme to some 2-year-olds who are already receiving government support. Here's how it works:

Eligibility Criteria for 2-Year-Olds:

- Parents receiving certain benefits.
- Children with Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Special Educational Needs (SEND).
- Children under kinship or guardianship orders.
- Children who are looked after by a local authority.



## LIMITED NUMBER OF FUNDED-ONLY PLACES

At Purple Willows, we understand the importance of providing access to quality childcare for all families, regardless of their financial circumstances. That's why we proudly offer limited, free funded-only places to eligible families. Here's what you need to know about these special arrangements:

- We believe every child deserves access to high-quality childcare and early education, so we offer free funded-only places to eligible families. These places ensure that children benefit from our nurturing environment and educational programs without financial barriers.
- While we strive to support as many families as possible, it's important to note that our funded-only places are limited in number. Offering these places impacts staffing and carries financial consequences for our nurseries. We must manage these resources carefully to maintain the viability of our facilities and ensure sustainable operation.
- Our priority is to provide exceptional care and education to all children in our care while maintaining the financial viability of our nurseries. By offering a limited number of funded-only or free places, we can balance families' needs with our operational requirements, ensuring that we can continue to serve our community effectively.
- Please refer to the nursery's funded childcare policy for guidance.

# Purple Willows Fees



## FEE STRUCTURE

**Payment Schedule:** Nursery fees are always paid monthly in advance, due on the first day of each month. This ensures that your child's place is secured and allows us to maintain consistent operations.

**Registration Fee:** When your child joins us, there is a registration fee of £100 for non-funded spaces. This fee is non-refundable and required to secure your child's nursery place. Vulnerable children and those whose parents are receiving some level of government support and accessing 2-year-old funding are exempt from the registration fee.

**Detailed Pricing Information:** Once you have selected your preferred nursery and days, we will provide detailed pricing information. This includes the monthly fees based on your chosen schedule.

**Discounts:** We offer a 5% discount on full-time places to provide additional value for families requiring full-time care. Additionally, we offer a 10% sibling discount for the oldest child enrolled in our nursery.

**Late Payment:** Per our terms and conditions, late payments will incur a surcharge. We appreciate timely payments to ensure the smooth operation of our nursery and the provision of quality care and education for all children.

**Additional Information:** Please note that Purple Willows provides formula milk and toiletries, including nappies, wipes, and other essentials, using selected brands. However, if your child has any specific allergies or requirements, we ask that you provide the necessary items tailored to their needs.

We understand the financial considerations involved in childcare and are committed to providing affordable and accessible options for families. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need further clarification about our fees.

We go above and beyond to create a nurturing, supportive, and enriching environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.



# Essentials and Extras

The government's Early Years Funding is intended to support the delivery of childcare only. It does not cover meals, consumables and additional hours beyond your funded entitlement. To ensure Purple Willows can continue delivering high-quality care and a rich, well-resourced learning environment, an essentials and extras fee applies to all funded hours. This contribution helps cover daily meals and refreshments, non-food consumables, creative materials, learning resources, enrichment activities and group experiences. The contribution is not a condition of accessing your government-funded childcare. However, it is an expected contribution that allows us to maintain a high standard of provision for all children. These extras include:

1. **Meals, Drinks, and Snacks:** Nutritious meals, drinks, and snacks are provided to ensure your child stays energised and nourished throughout the day.
2. **Toiletries and Potty Training Support:** We provide toiletries and offer support with potty training to assist your child in their development and ensure their comfort throughout the day.
3. **Enhanced Programme of Activities:** Our nursery offers an enhanced and unique program of activities designed to stimulate your child's development across various areas, including cognitive, physical, social, and emotional. For example, the nursery provides a bespoke sports program and organises zoo lab visits, enriching the learning experience for the children.
4. **ParentZone App:** Our parent app allows you to track your child's progress, stay updated on their activities and achievements, and keep in touch with us while at nursery.
5. **Resources:** We provide various resources, including art supplies and educational materials, to support your child's learning and creativity. These resources are typically provided for specific occasions, such as festivals.
6. **Specialist Support & Enhanced Transition:** Our qualified staff offers specialist support and enhanced transition services for children preparing to move into schools. We work closely with your child to ensure they feel confident and prepared for their transition to Reception.

Disadvantaged children and those whose parents are receiving some level of government support accessing 2-year-old funding are exempt from these charges. Please refer to the nursery's funded childcare policy for guidance.



## ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

We believe in the importance of continuity of care and preparing children for school. Therefore, we strongly encourage children to attend for at least 2 full days (10 hours daily) a week throughout the year. This approach not only provides a sense of stability and familiarity for your child but also fosters the development of social, emotional, and cognitive skills crucial for a successful transition to school.

Parents, however, can opt for additional hours and would be expected to pay for those additional hours. Please refer to the nursery fees sheet for more information.

## FOOD SAFETY MEASURES

Additionally, it's important to note that we have implemented a policy where parents are not permitted to bring packed lunches or snacks from home. This decision is made in consideration of the safety of all children in our nurseries, particularly those with allergies. We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of parents in adhering to this policy, as it helps to maintain a safe environment for all children under our care.

**Promoting the well-being and development of every child**

# Tax-Free Childcare



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT OPTIONS

In addition to our nursery's fee structure and discounts, we want to ensure families can access additional financial support options. That's why we're here to help you navigate programs like the Tax-Free Childcare scheme and other benefits that may be available to you.

The Tax-Free Childcare scheme is a government initiative designed to help working families with childcare costs. This scheme allows eligible parents to receive financial support to cover childcare costs, including nursery fees. We understand that understanding and accessing these programs can be overwhelming, so we're here to provide guidance and assistance every step of the way.

Parents must meet certain eligibility criteria to qualify for the Tax-Free Childcare scheme. Specifically, they must:

- Be in work, including self-employment.
- Each earns at least £120 a week (equivalent to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage).
- Not earn more than £100,000 each per year.
- Live in the UK.

The scheme is designed to be flexible to accommodate different work situations, such as parents returning to work after the birth of a child or working part-time.

## Childcare Choices

Tax-Free Childcare is a valuable resource available to approximately 2 million households, offering financial assistance with childcare expenses. To learn more about this scheme and other government support options for childcare costs, we encourage you to visit the [Childcare Choices website](#).

## HOW MUCH DO I GET?

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year).



# Funding Application

## WHEN TO APPLY

If you're a parent of an eligible 2-year-old, it's important to note that the earliest you can apply for funding directly through your local authority is at the beginning of the term in which your child turns two. This means that you'll need to wait until the start of the relevant term to initiate the application process for childcare funding for your child. It's advisable to familiarise yourself with the specific term dates and application procedures set by your local authority to ensure that you apply for funding at the appropriate time.

It's recommended to apply for your eligibility code for funding approximately 3 months before you intend to access it. This timeline allows for sufficient processing time and ensures that you can access the funding when needed.

## UNIVERSAL FUNDED CHILDCARE

For 3 and 4-year-olds eligible for universal free funded childcare, accessing the support is straightforward. All you need to do is reach out to Purple Willows, and we'll guide you through the application process. We'll ask for your child's birth certificate or passport as proof of eligibility, and from there, we'll handle the rest of the process for you.

If your 2-year-old is already receiving government support and meets the eligibility criteria, you'll need to obtain written confirmation from your Local Authority. Once you have this confirmation, simply send it to us. If your child is eligible, their funding will commence from the term following the application.



Your child's birthday	When they can get their hours from	Recommended time to apply
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	15 October to 30 November
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	15 January to 28 February
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	15 June to 31 July

## WORKING FAMILY FUNDED CHILDCARE

At Purple Willows, we understand that navigating the application process for working family-funded childcare can be challenging. If you need any assistance or have questions about the process, please don't hesitate to contact us on 0203 149 1785.

## NEXT STEPS

To complete your funding application, Visit the government website: [gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare](https://gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare)

We'll require you to sign our funding terms and conditions each term and complete a local authority Parental Declaration form. Completing these documents each term helps us maintain accurate records and ensures that funding for your child's place at our nursery continues without interruption.



[www.purplewillows.co.uk](http://www.purplewillows.co.uk)

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