



Blackburne House Nursery

Optional Charges for Parents (including FAQs) Policy

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1. Purpose

This policy explains Blackburne House Nursery's optional charges and the choices available to parents. It supports clear, consistent information in line with Liverpool City Council's Early Years Funding Agreement.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Early Years Providers including Blackburne House Nursery and families accessing government-funded childcare places.

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Funded Hours	Government-funded childcare hours (15 or 30hrs per week) provided free of charge to eligible children, as set out in their agreed funding arrangement.
Optional Charges	Charges for meals and snacks, non-food consumables and optional additional activities that parents may choose to purchase or decline.
Consumables	Items used such as, meals, snacks, wipes, sun cream and nappy cream.
Additional Activities	Additional activities such as music sessions or trips
Additional Hours	Childcare hours purchased beyond the child's agreed funded allocation.

4. Permitted Optional Charges and Additional Private Hours

Parents may choose to pay for:

- Meals and snacks.
- Non-food consumables.



- Optional additional activities.

Parents may select each category separately or decline all optional charges. Declining these charges will not change their child's agreed funded days or session times.

Charges are set out in our Fees and Funding Policy. Alternatives are explained in our Enrichment Provision Opt-Out Policy.

Parents may also purchase additional private childcare hours. Purchasing these hours is not a condition of accessing a funded place.

5. Parent Rights

Parents have the right to:

- Access funded hours free of charge
- Opt out of voluntary charges
- Provide their own meals, consumables, or decline participation in extra activities
- Receive equal quality of care regardless of payment for optional extras

6. Transparency Requirements

Blackburne House Nursery will:

- Publish a clear charging policy on their website or via the local authority
- Clearly distinguish between funded and paid services
- Ensure all optional voluntary charges are itemised and explained (please see our Fees & Funding Policy)

7. Invoicing Standards

Our Invoices must:

- Clearly separate funded hours from paid hours
- Itemise charges for meals and snacks, non-food consumables, and additional activities
- Reflect the optional choices agreed with parents.
- Be issued regularly and in a format parents can understand

8. Opt-Out Procedures

Providers must:

- Allow parents to opt out of optional voluntary charges



- Offer alternatives (e.g. bring own meat free meals or items)
- Children whose parents decline an optional paid activity will continue to receive suitable EYFS care and education during their agreed funded session. Their funded days and session times will not change.

9. Compliance with Liverpool City Council

Blackburne House Nursery will follow the Liverpool Early Years Funding Agreement and relevant updates issued by the local authority. Our policies, published charges and invoicing arrangements will be kept consistent with these requirements.



Frequently Asked Questions

These FAQs explain funded childcare at Blackburne House Nursery and the optional extras parents may choose to purchase.

Charges for meals and snacks, non-food consumables and optional additional activities are voluntary. Parents may choose each category separately or decline all optional charges. Alternatives are explained in our Enrichment Provision Opt-Out Policy.

Is childcare really free?

Yes. Eligible children can access 15 or 30 funded hours per week, normally over 38 weeks of the year, free of charge.

At Blackburne House Nursery, funding can be stretched across the year as explained in our Fees and Funding Policy. This means fewer funded hours each week over more weeks.

Parents do not have to purchase optional extras or additional private childcare hours to access their child's agreed funded place. Any private hours parents choose to purchase are charged at the agreed rate.

What can providers charge for?

Item	Can they charge?	Is it optional?	What happens if I opt out?
Meals & snacks	Yes	☒ Optional	You can provide suitable meat-free meals and snacks in accordance with our Packed Lunch Policy, or discuss an alternative with a Nursery Manager.
Consumables (e.g. nappies, wipes, sun cream)	Yes	☒ Optional	You can provide your own suitable items or discuss an alternative with a Nursery Manager.
Extra activities (e.g. music, languages, trips)	Yes	☒ Optional	If your child does not participate, they will receive suitable care and education during their usual funded session.



Additional hours (outside funded hours)	Yes	☒ Optional	Your child can continue to access their agreed funded hours without purchasing additional private hours.
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Can providers make me pay for these extras?

No. Purchasing optional extras or additional private hours is not a condition of accessing your child's funded place. We will discuss the alternatives available if you decline optional extras.

Will my child be treated differently if I don't pay?

No. Your child will receive the same quality of care and education during their funded hours. Their agreed funded days and session times will not change.

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