



Ladybirds Preschool Fees, Charging and Non-Payment Policy

(Revised 4th November 2024)

Working in conjunction with the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (EYFS).

Quality and Consistency.

A Secure Foundation.

Partnership Working.

Equality of Opportunity.

Unique Child Positive Partnerships Enabling Environment Learning and Developing

Introduction

At Ladybirds Preschool, we aim to make our Preschool as accessible to as many families in the community as possible. We therefore aim to ensure our fees are as competitive as possible. As a non-profit making charity, we rely on prompt fee payments to be able to meet our running costs and to provide equipment and resources for the children who attend. This policy adheres to the standards regulated by Wiltshire County Council regarding the Government Funding for 2,3 and 4 year olds. Therefore, the following policy will apply:

Fees: (From September 2024)

- £7.95 per hour (2yr olds)
- £6.10 per hour (3/4 yr olds)
- There will be a £50.00 refundable deposit for formally registering a child if the child starts prior to them being eligible for 2/3/4 year old funding.
- Please note that BACS payments for registration are our preferred method of payment, please quote your child's name and what is being paid as reference. (For example, John Smith – Registration)

Procedures

- All parents/carers will receive an emailed invoice prior to commencement.
- Fees can be paid in full within 30 days of invoice or paid weekly or monthly. Please see

Late Payment charge below.

- Payment for all fees can be made via our preferred method of BACS for the exact full weekly payment (i.e. weekly or fortnightly, not part weeks) by cheque, childcare vouchers or cash. If paying by cash, please ensure that we receive the correct money as we cannot guarantee to return any change on the same day.
- Once payment has been received by cash or cheque, a receipt will be issued

- If paying using childcare vouchers it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform Sharon Goldie of the payment plan.
- Once a child has begun at Ladybirds Preschool fees are payable for all sessions regardless of attendance. Therefore, fees are still due for sessions missed due to sickness or holiday. This applies to all Preschool sessions and the voluntary consumables charge.
- If a child will be absent because of holiday or illness, then payment for the missed sessions must be either made in advance of the absence or the parent must make payment on the child's first week of return or by the Monday of the week of Half term, or a late payment charge will apply (see below).
- For visits with parents or carers there will be no charge. (ie Stay, Play and Meet sessions)

Late or Non-Payment:

- From September 2024 a late payment fee charge will automatically be applied £5 to outstanding fees on the Monday after half term.
- In the event of a cheque being returned to Ladybirds Preschool marked unpaid, a £10 administration charge will be incurred.
- If a child is absent for more than 5 days due to a pre-arranged operation or hospitalisation, arrangements should be made PRIOR to the absence with Sharon Goldie.
- If after three requests the outstanding balance has not been paid, we will advise the parent/carer that the child will no longer be able to attend their paid sessions until the balance has been settled.
- All unpaid fees will be pursued via the court system. Ladybirds Preschool reserves the right to withdraw any agreed payment plan if payment have not been made. If payments are not made then the full amount outstanding will be due within 7 days of an overdue account letter. If payment is not received within 7 days of the overdue account letter then a final warning letter will be issued, if payment still remains outstanding following this letter then court proceedings shall begin. Court proceedings will incur charges to the parent/carer.

Late Collection of Child:

Continuous late collection will incur a charge of £5 for the first 15 minutes per child, and a further £5 for every 5 minutes following.

Notice Period and Conditions:

- If you wish to cancel a paid day session half a term's notice (6 weeks) is required. This should be in writing preferably via email.
- Regular bookings will be charged in full if the notice is not given.

Child leaving Ladybirds Preschool:

- Six weeks' notice is required if a child is to leave Ladybirds Preschool
- If six weeks' notice is not received, then 6 weeks' fees will be charged in lieu of notice.

Funding :

We are registered to provide the free and Universal Extended hours entitlement to Early Learning and Childcare and will meet our statutory obligations in this respect.

For parents who receive government funding (either the 2-year old funding or when the child receives 3-year old funding) we will require documents to prove your child's date of birth, this can be their red book, passport or birth certificate. A parental contract will be drawn showing the amount of hours due to attend and this will be updated and require a signature at each funding block (ie each term).

Once the Wiltshire County Council (WCC) funding rates are published, the Ladybirds Fees will increase from the 1st of September following. This will be 1% above the WCC base rates. The committee will review the new rates annually around March once the new WCC rates are known.

Payment Plans

We understand that some families may face genuine hardship in paying fees. We ask that, in these circumstances, parents or carers speak to either Nicola Mann-Rae or Sharon Goldie in confidence immediately as it may be possible to arrange a flexible payment plan.

Other Related Policies & Procedures

The following policies provide additional information regarding the safeguarding and welfare of the children in our care:

- *Admissions Policy*
- *Children's Records Policy*
- *Children's Rights & Entitlement Policy*
- *Committee Policy*
- *Complaints Policy*
- *Confidentiality & Client Access Policy*
- *Diversity & Equality Policy*
- *Emergency Closure Policy*
- *Employment & Staffing Policy*
- *Equal Opportunities Policy*
- *EYPP Policy*

- *Financial Reserves Policy*
- *Food & Drink Policy*
- *GDPR Policy*
- *Information Sharing Policy*
- *LADO Policy*
- *Looked After Children Policy*
- *Organisation Policy*
- *Outings & Visits Policy*
- *Parent Involvement Policy*
- *Provider Records Policy*
- *Special Education Needs & Inclusion Policy*
- *Uncollected or Lost Children Policy*
- *Usage, Storage & Retention Policy*
- *Working in Partnership Policy*

This policy will be monitored and evaluated at committee meetings. It will be reviewed annually and unless new legislation or an incident occurs which requires an immediate review of this policy

November 2024

Review Date: November 2025

This policy was adopted by the committee on 19/11/2024

Signed: *Jean De Garis*_____

Reviewed Date: 19/11/2025

Signature: *N L Mann-Rae*

Amendments: N/A

Reviewed Date: 15/07/2026

Signature: *N L Mann-Rae*

Amendments: Fees increase and new terms and conditions relating to increases