

Home-Grown Childcare

Policy for Charges Additional to Government Funded Hours

1. Any hours taken over and above the Government Funded Hours will be charged at the rate published and shared with parents via email and on the Home-Grown website. These hours are set when you are contracted to Home-Grown and can be amended with four weeks notice.
2. **Fees for *Additional Services and Consumable* are not mandatory.**

Meals and Snacks

To opt out of meals, you can provide a healthy, home prepared packed lunch and snacks for your child following our 'Healthy Eating and Packed Lunch' policy. Please be aware, however, that our guidance is stringent and **MUST** be adhered to if this option is taken. To ensure that food brought into the setting follows our policy it will be checked on entry and returned to you if it does not follow the setting guidelines. Children with food allergies could be placed in a life-threatening situation if there is deviation from the guidance. You must let us know that you intend to provide your own meals when completing your contract with us.

The cost of meals and snacks is ***included*** in our ***non-government funded*** hourly rate.

Please be aware that in order to provide snacks and meals we have to pay at least one member of staff to do all of the following:

1. Plan a menu consulting all children's dietary requirements;
2. Shop for the ingredients/food items which includes travel by car;
3. Prepare and cook the meals;
4. Wash up all plates, bowls, cutlery etc. when children have finished eating;
5. Clean down tables, sweep/clean/wash the floor to ensure a hygienic environment is maintained;
6. Launder flannels for hands and faces;
7. Complete food hygiene training courses

Other Consumables

Other consumables not covered by government funding include cooking ingredients and gardening resources such as seeds, bulbs and compost. As cooking and growing are regular activities at Home-Grown, we have to ask for a small contribution towards their cost.

Our Additional Integrated Services Charge is always discussed with parents when visiting the setting, completing a contract or both. Most, if not all, parents understand the benefits of those extras that Government Funding does not cover. We understand, however, that personal circumstances can change, and if you are, for financial reasons, unable to pay the published fee for our Additional Integrated Services, you must speak to us immediately, rather than simply opting out and not paying. We can go through your options in person.

