

GOVERNMENT-FUNDED CHILDCARE & TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

Helping families understand the support
available with childcare costs 



GOVERNMENT-FUNDED CHILDCARE

Depending on your child's age and your family circumstances, you may be entitled to government-funded childcare.



WORKING FAMILIES

Eligible working parents can receive up to **30 funded hours per week** for **38 weeks** of the year, from the term after their child turns 9 months old until they start school.



ALL 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

All children are entitled to **15 funded hours per week** for **38 weeks** of the year, from the term after their third birthday, regardless of whether their parents are working.

HOW FUNDING WORKS AT ST BERNARDS

St Bernards is a full-year nursery and our government funding is stretched across **50 weeks** of the year.

For example, a child entitled to 30 hours per week for 38 weeks has an annual entitlement of 1,140 funded hours. When stretched across 50 weeks, this provides up to 22.8 funded hours per week.



YOUR CHILD'S START DATE MATTERS

The amount of funding your child receives will depend on their individual start date at St Bernards.

Funding cannot be backdated – we can only claim funding from your child's **actual start date**.

If your child joins part-way through a funding period, their available funded hours may be different from a child who attended from the beginning of that period.

Your child's funding allocation is based on their eligibility, start date and attendance pattern.



IMPORTANT – THE FINAL WEEK OF AUGUST

Our stretched funding year runs up until the end of the third week in August.



The final week of August is not covered by the government funding allocation and therefore no funded hours can be applied during this week.

If your child attends during the final week of August, their usual booked sessions will be payable in full.

Please note: The charge for this week will be in addition to your normal monthly nursery invoice.

WHAT DOES GOVERNMENT FUNDING COVER?

Government funding contributes towards your child's funded childcare hours. **It does not cover the cost of meals, snacks or additional childcare hours outside your child's funded entitlement.**

MEALS & SNACKS

Our current charges are:



Full Day £12.50



Morning Session £7.75



Afternoon Session £4.75

These charges contribute towards the meals and snacks provided during your child's session.

ADDITIONAL HOURS

Any childcare hours attended above your child's stretched funded entitlement are chargeable.

OUR CURRENT ADDITIONAL HOURLY RATE IS:
£5.50 PER HOUR

For children attending **FULL TIME**, our additional hourly rates are:

- **£4.75 per hour** for children in receipt of the 30-hour funded entitlement
- **£5.00 per hour** for 3 & 4 year olds in receipt of the 15-hour universal entitlement

These charges apply to childcare hours that fall outside of your child's government-funded allocation.

WHEN DOES FUNDING START?

Funding begins from the term following the date your child reaches the relevant age and meets the eligibility requirements.



Eligible between
1 January – 31 March
Funding can begin from **1 April**



Eligible between
1 April – 31 August
Funding can begin from **1 September**



Eligible between
1 September – 31 December
Funding can begin from **1 January**

Please remember that although your child may be eligible from the beginning of a funding period, St Bernards can only claim their funding from the date they actually start with us.

Working families must apply for their eligibility code within the required government timescales.

YOUR FUNDING CODE

If you are claiming the working-parent entitlement, you will receive an **11-digit eligibility code**.

Please provide St Bernards with:

- ✓ Your eligibility code
- ✓ Parent's National Insurance number
- ✓ Parent's date of birth
- ✓ Your child's birth certificate/details where requested



You must reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months through your childcare account to continue receiving your funded entitlement.

TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

Tax-Free Childcare is separate from government-funded childcare and can be used to help towards the childcare costs you still need to pay.



For every **£8** you pay into your **Tax-Free Childcare account**, the **Government adds £2**.

You pay £80 + Government adds £20 = £100 towards your childcare costs

Families can receive a government top-up of up to £2,000 per child, per year, or up to £4,000 for an eligible disabled child.

CAN I USE FUNDING AND TAX-FREE CHILDCARE?



YES!



If eligible, you can use your government-funded childcare entitlement alongside Tax-Free Childcare.

Your funded hours contribute towards your eligible childcare hours, while Tax-Free Childcare can help you pay towards your remaining nursery costs, including additional hours, food charges and the fully payable final week of August.

REMEMBER

- ✓ Funding is an annual entitlement which we stretch across 50 weeks of the year.
- ✓ The amount available to your child will depend on their eligibility, start date and attendance pattern.
- ✓ Funding cannot be backdated and can only be claimed from the date your child starts at St Bernards.
- ✓ Funding does not cover meals, snacks or additional hours outside your child's funded entitlement.
- ✓ The final week of August is outside of our funding allocation and is payable in full, in addition to your normal monthly invoice.
- ✓ Working families must reconfirm their eligibility every 3 months to ensure their funding continues.



NEED SOME HELP?

If you have any questions about your child's entitlement, start date, stretched funding, additional charges, August payment or Tax-Free Childcare, please speak to a member of the St Bernards management team.

We're always happy to help!

