



## **Voluntary Contributions & Enhanced Provision Policy (from September 2025)**

### **Purpose**

At Puffins, we are dedicated to providing a rich, engaging, and nurturing early years environment where every child thrives. While we deliver the government-funded childcare hours, this funding does not cover all the resources and enhancements that contribute to a high-quality experience. This policy outlines the voluntary contributions we invite families to consider, to help us maintain the highest standards of care and education.

### **Funded Hours at Puffins**

At Puffins, we offer government-funded hours in a '**stretched**' manner, meaning your child can access:

- **11.2 funded hours per week** (if entitled to 15 hours)
- **22.4 funded hours per week** (if entitled to 30 hours)

These hours are offered **over 51 weeks** of the year to support families who require care year-round.

From September 2025, there will be no restriction on the amount of funded hours used per session.

### **What the Funding Does Not Cover**

Government funding is intended to cover only the basic provision of care and education. It does **not** include costs related to:

- Meals and snacks
- Consumables (such as wipes and sun cream)
- Creative activities and seasonal crafts (Christmas, Easter, cultural or religious events)
- Cooking and other enhanced learning activities
- Access to your child's **online learning profile**

### **Enhanced Provision Charge**

To help meet the cost of these extras and ensure we can continue offering a high standard of provision, from **September 2025**, we will be introducing an:

## **Enhanced Provision Charge of £2.50 per funded hour**

This contribution helps to cover:

- All daily meals and snacks
- Online learning journals
- Hygiene supplies (wipes, suncream, etc.)
- Enriching seasonal and creative activities
- Additional experiences such as cooking and hands-on learning
- Our yearly Leavers' Trip to the farm

### **Encouraging Support**

While the Enhanced Provision Charge is not compulsory, it plays a key role in helping us deliver a well-rounded experience for all children. By contributing, you are directly supporting the high-quality care and educational enrichment we aim to provide every day.

We greatly appreciate the support of families who are able to contribute. Your involvement helps us maintain a joyful and stimulating environment for all children at Puffins.

### **Holiday**

If you are due to go on holiday, you will not be required to pay for the voluntary contribution for the funded hours that your child doesn't attend Puffins.

We kindly ask for one month's notice of this holiday.

A credit will be added to your Blossom account which will be used towards your next invoice.

This does not include last minute absences or days taken off for sickness.

### **Support for Disadvantaged Families**

We understand that some families may face financial difficulties. We are committed to ensuring all children have access to their funded entitlement without barriers. Therefore, we offer opportunities for **eligible disadvantaged families** to access their funded hours **without** the Enhanced Provision Charge.

If this applies to you, or if you would like to discuss flexible payment options or support, please contact the **Nursery Manager** in confidence.

### **In Summary**

We value your continued support in making Puffins a warm, inclusive, and inspiring place for early learning. Voluntary contributions such as the Enhanced Provision Charge help us

go beyond the basics, offering experiences that create lasting memories and support your child's development.

If you have any questions about this policy or your family's options, please speak to the Nursery Manager at any time.