

## **Payments and Entitlements**

### **How much is the hourly rate for the childcare hours and what does it exclude?**

A national basic pay rate of £4.50 per hour is being paid to childcare providers delivering childcare under the offer.

If a childcare provider would usually charge more than £4.50 per hour for childcare, then they cannot charge parents an additional hourly amount to top-up the rate under the offer.

The national basic pay rate covers childcare only and excludes charges for food, transport and other activities such as off-site activities which incur a cost i.e. day trips.

### **Are there any additional charges that my childcare provider can charge me for?**

Childcare providers will be able to charge parents for additional elements such as food, drink, transport and off-site activities which incur a cost. However, childcare providers must take account of the Welsh Government's guidelines in respect of setting additional fees when charging parents for additional elements of over and about childcare.

N.B. Parents accessing the childcare offer should not as a condition of their child's attendance be required to take and pay for the provider's food and may opt to provide packed meals, if the setting would normally allow this. Parents should also be able to opt their child out of paid for off-site activities and participation in such activities should not be a condition of using the childcare setting. Such activities should be occasional and exceptional, rather than a routine part of the setting's week.

Childcare providers should not impose any additional charges on parents accessing the Offer for any elements over and above the costs of actual childcare if they do not also impose charges for those elements on parents who are not accessing the Offer. For example if a childcare provider does not charge parents for food as a separate item then they cannot charge parents accessing the Offer for food separately.

### **Guidelines in Respect of Charging for Additional Elements**

The Welsh Government guidelines in respect of charging for additional elements during a full day care session (approximately 10 hours) are that parents should not be charged more than £7.50 per day for food. This figure is derived from using a value of £2.00 per meal. A charge of £7.50 for a full day care session would include three meals at £2.00 per meal and 2 snacks at a charge of 75p per snack.

Guidelines in respect of charging for additional elements during a half-day session -

(Approximately 5.5 hours) are that parents should not be charged more than £4.75.

This figure would allow for a child to be charged for two meals at £2.00 per meal plus a snack at a charge of 75p per snack.

For sessional care where a meal is not provided but children receive a snack, guidelines are that parents should not be charged more than 75p per day for snack provision.

Fees for transport and off-site activities will not be set by the Welsh Government. Transport costs will vary depending on the location and nature of a childcare provider, the type of transport provided and the costs associated with staffing and maintaining transport vehicles. Rates for off-site activities where costs are incurred will also vary according to the nature of the activities.

However it is expected that transport rates would be reasonable and in line with normal transport costs (transport costs before the introduction of the Offer). Participants of the Offer should not be charged more for transport than children not accessing the Offer. The same applies for additional activities.

## **Entitlement**

The Welsh Government has committed to providing 30 hours of government-funded [early education](#) and [childcare](#) for 3 and 4 year old children of [eligible working parent](#) for up to 48 weeks of the year.

[Eligible children](#) will be able to access the Childcare Offer from the start of the term following their third birthday until the September after their fourth birthday. Please see [Flintshire School Holidays & Training Days](#) for details.

Where a child is offered a full time education place before the September after their fourth birthday (e.g. the day after or term after their fourth birthday), that child is still eligible to receive 30 hours per week of holiday provision up until the September after their fourth birthday.

This is to ensure all eligible parents receive the same offer and to avoid penalising parents who take up a full time education place for their child before the September after they turn 4 years of age.

**N.B.** Please note, once a child begins fulltime education following their fourth birthday (September after their fourth birthday) they are no longer entitled to the childcare offer.

This application is for the Childcare Offer CHILDCARE HOURS ONLY - to apply for the Foundation Phase Education Hours see the [Early Entitlement](#) Page OR Nursery Admissions on the [School Admissions](#) Page.

**Scheme**

**Learning  
 Entitlement**

**Childcare  
 Allowance**

Scheme	Learning Entitlement	Childcare Allowance
Early Entitlement (FPN1)	10 hours per week	20 hours per week
Foundation Phase Nursery (FPN2)	12.5 hours per week	17.5 hours per week