

Nursery provision 2024-2025

This document attempts to answer questions parents may have. It is for guidance only and does not form part of a legal agreement.

North West has agreed that, for the academic year 2024-25, the Nursery will continue to be operated on a full-time basis; the time beyond the fifteen hours of state provision being privately funded. The private funding will come from parents paying a fee to cover the costs of the afternoon session (including lunchtime supervision, though the costs for lunch will have to be paid separately). Further information is contained in the section below entitled 'How much will it cost'.

The payment process will be similar to that of most private nurseries. Parents will be required to sign a contract, pay a deposit and commit themselves to the charges to be levied for the whole year.

FAQs

How do the hours break down?

For the last seven years the Government has only been providing 15 hours weekly childcare per child aged 3 and 4 years. This covers a morning session from 8.40-11.40am. It has therefore been necessary to arrange alternative funding from 11.40am to 3.45pm. The Government has recently introduced a new scheme for an additional 'means tested' 15 hours – please refer to the section below entitled 'How much will it cost'.

Will the staff be the same in the afternoons as in the mornings?

Yes, although the School reserves the right to make minor modifications in order to maintain appropriate staffing levels.

How much are the Nursery Fees for the afternoons?

The cost for the academic year 2024-25 will be £6,000 per Nursery child. Based upon the need to fund these afternoon hours, and taking into account early closings, over the whole school year the cost to the parent equates to approximately £8.60 per hour. Parents choosing this afternoon, private provision will be required to pay an initial non-refundable deposit of £1,500 and will be obliged to commit themselves to the payment of the balance of the full annual fee over the course of the school year. The contract, together with exact payment details, will be sent to parents early in 2024.

You may be aware that the Government provides for an additional 15 hours free childcare (funded by local authorities) for children aged 3 and 4 years (in addition to the existing 'universal' 15 hours provision). Parents will be 'means tested' on the additional 15 hours, based on income. However, we would clarify that this is not compulsory to nursery providers. Whilst we are in the scheme for 2023-2024, we are monitoring whether this has an adverse financial impact on the Nursery. If the funding from the Local Authority proves to be

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insufficient, we may need to review our decision accordingly. Please note that the existing 'universal' provision is compulsory and would remain in place in any event.

If we do continue with the 30 hours provision in 2024-2025, we would still need to charge for the childcare provided above the 30 hours per week – **an annual fee of £600, which equates to £200 per term.** Kindly note that these sums are not voluntary contributions.

What other fees are required to be paid for Nursery?

In addition to Nursery fees for the afternoons, there are lunch fees to cover the cost of providing school lunches, which are an additional cost for all children in the School.

Lunch fee amounts will be confirmed in a letter to all Parents in July 2024, with the amounts for 2024-25 academic year. The current lunch fees for the 2023-24 academic year are £3.95 per day, which equates to £734.70 per year.

As there are Nursery fees, will voluntary contributions also still be requested from all Nursery parents?

In addition to Nursery afternoon fees, voluntary contributions are requested from Parents provide for a range of school needs which include security, extra staffing, outings and other activities not covered in the budget allowance from the Government. In addition, the Kodesh voluntary contribution covers all of the costs of Kodesh provision for the school, none of which are funded by the Government. Voluntary contributions requested by the School are in addition to the charge required for private nursery provision. As an Academy, North West is proud of the community spirit of its parent body reflected in the financial support given by parents through their voluntary contributions and the school could not function in the way parents expect without these.

Letters will be sent out in July 2024 confirming the voluntary contribution levels for 2024-25 academic year. The current voluntary contribution level for 2023-24 is £2,100 per child per year (without gift aid), and £1,750 (with gift aid)

Surely there are some hours which are covered by the Kodesh teachers?

In the Early Years Foundation stage, Kodesh (Jewish) and Chol (secular) studies are integrated into one curriculum so there is one combined set of staff. Kodesh teachers do also cover hours within the Nursery to support the Kodesh learning for nursery children.

Can I pay the nursery fee in instalments?

Yes. You can either pay the full amount in advance or as a regular standing order. If you choose the second option, you will still be obliged to have paid the fees in full by mid-July 2025. Exact payment details will be sent to parents early in 2024.

What happens if my child leaves the School before the end of the academic year?

If your child leaves the School, under the terms of the contract, you will still be liable to pay for the whole year.

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Can Nursery parents pay the fees with a charity voucher or through Gift Aid?

No. The Nursery fees for the private afternoon provision are compulsory and thus do not qualify as a donation.

Will the Nursery accept childcare vouchers?

Yes. The Nursery will accept vouchers from the majority of childcare voucher providers. Details of the changes to the provision of childcare vouchers under the Government's new scheme started in September 2015 can be found on the HMRC website at www.hmrc.gov.uk

Will the School provide full day Nursery from the first day of term?

As current best practice recommends, children will start the Nursery in staggered groups. This process takes approximately 3 weeks and the children are brought in in small groups. The staggering process is to ensure that all children have started to settle in to their new environment. In addition, staff from the Nursery carry out home visits to meet all the children in their home environment at the very end of the summer holidays and in the afternoons of the first weeks of term.

When can my child stay for a full day?

Children can stay for a full day at Nursery as soon as the teachers feel they are ready. This will not be before a child has spent at least five consecutive half days in the Nursery and this will be at Mrs Zinkin and Mrs Warren and the Nursery teams' discretion. Even though some children starting the nursery have previously been in full day nursery/day-care settings, it does take time for the children to adjust to being in a school environment. Their school day is packed full of new experiences and everything they do centres around educational goals.

How will I know if my child is ready?

Our highly qualified and experienced staff will make this judgement in the best interests of your child and will communicate to you when your child is ready.

What happens if my child is not ready to stay full days at Nursery? Do we still have to pay?

The fees for the afternoon Nursery provision are carefully calculated to take into account the necessary staffing and the settling in period. As a result of all these factors, no refunds can be made if a child does not stay full days because they are not ready. It is usually the case that, towards the end of the first term, most children are able to stay at least a few full days. From their first day at Nursery, every child whose parents have paid for afternoon provision will be able to stay for the lunch period and may remain at school until 12.40pm. The school meals are payable separately.

It should be noted that the Nursery is not profit-making.

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Can parents opt out fully from the afternoon Nursery so that their children only attend in the mornings?

Yes. However, if the parents opt out, it must be for the entire year and not on a termly basis. Once the decision to opt out has been made, you will not have the opportunity to opt in at a later date. This is to ensure we can plan appropriate staffing levels. It should be noted that the morning session will finish before lunch, at 11.40am.

What happens if there is a full day school outing?

Children whose parents have opted out from the afternoon sessions would be invited to participate in the school outings but a supplementary fee will be payable.

Will my child miss out on the curriculum if they do not attend the afternoon session?

The full curriculum, as required by the state, will be delivered in the mornings but this will be enhanced by the private afternoon provision. Activities such as PE, Music, Swimming, Kabbalat Shabbat and borrowing library books will take place in the morning.

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