



Food Policy – Funded Only Places

This policy outlines how Cherry Lodge Childcare manages and charges for food and meals which are provided during your child's session.

Cherry Lodge Childcare is particularly mindful that children benefit from healthy food and drink and need to be aware of making healthy choices.

The Nursery's Cook is NVQ Level 3 qualified in catering and hospitality. She prides herself on making home cooked, healthy and interesting meals for the children and uses fresh ingredients as much as possible.

- We do not add extra salt to any part of the children's meals.
- We aim to have at least 2 portions of fresh fruit per day.
- We do not give the children any sugary drinks with meals – we provide water or milk.
- We provide the children with a well-balanced diet, ensuring there is a variety of foods on offer i.e. meat, fish, pasta, vegetables, rice and potatoes.
- We only provide the children with whole milk.
- We ask parents to bring water every day in a safe container/cup that their child will recognise as their own. This is kept in their room for them to access as and when they choose.
- We would ask parents to bring water only. Children will drink water if they are not given any other choice. If you would prefer to wean your child off juice as their daily drink, we would be more than happy to help by watering the juice down more each day.
- The Nursery staff will only bring water or milk to drink in front of the children so as to set a good example.
- At the child's induction, parents are requested to supply us with details of the child's dietary needs, especially if there are any foods not allowed with regard to allergies, religious beliefs or personal preference. This information will be recorded on their child's 'Personal Information' form. This information will be related to the Nursery Cook who will display it along with the sessions the child attends. It will also be displayed in every room.

MEAL CHARGES TO PARENTS

Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high quality, flexible childcare over a maximum period of 38 weeks per annum. It is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services.

Based on your child's funded session times, Cherry Lodge Childcare charges parents/carers for meals per session which fall outside of the funded criteria as follows:-

Breakfast	@	£1.25
Lunch	@	£3.75
Snack	@	£1.25

Parents/carers can decline paying for meals and provide their own food under the following conditions:

- Parents/carers cannot pick and choose which meal times food will be provided for. If Parents/carers choose to provide food, it will be for all meals pertaining to their child's ongoing sessions.
- Any food items brought into nursery must meet the same healthy standards we provide and we reserve the right to remove items which contain high levels of sugar, salt and additives.



- Any food items brought into nursery must meet health and safety requirements i.e. we will not allow foods which may be a choking hazard.
- Each meal must be stored in individual clear plastic storage containers i.e. breakfast, lunch and snack must be in three separate containers.
- All containers must be able to fit within your child's normal nursery bag.
- Owing to the range and severity of allergies and food intolerances, each individual meal must be clearly labelled, **breaking down all ingredients and emphasizing any and all of the 14 allergens in bold, italics or capital letters**. These allergens are:
 - *Celery*
 - *Cereals containing gluten (including wheat, rye, barley and oats)*
 - *Crustaceans (including prawn, crab and lobster)*
 - *Eggs*
 - *Fish*
 - *Lupin*
 - *Milk*
 - *Molluscs (including squid, mussels, cockles, whelks and snails)*
 - *Mustard*
 - *Nuts (tree nuts)*
 - *Peanuts*
 - *Seasame seeds*
 - *Soya*
 - *Sulphur dioxide or sulphites (at levels above 10mg per kilogram or per litre)*
- If meals are not clearly marked, we reserve the right to withdraw the meal for the safety of other children who may be affected by cross contamination of allergens.
- We are unable to reheat any food items.
- We do not have sufficient refrigerated space to store your child's meal prior to meal times.
- We are unable to dispose of food waste and this will be sent home within the food containers provided.
- We are unable to wash food containers.

Parents/carers will be contacted at the soonest opportunity to notify them of issues with the food provided and should we be unable to serve any meal, you have the option to collect your child over meal time or provide an alternative meal in accordance with the conditions and requirements stated. Please note, it may be meal time before you are contacted if there is an issue which will have an impact to a child's day.

Alternatively, parents/carers can collect their child for each meal time if preferred.