



Charging Policy

We aim to keep the cost of the nursery as affordable as possible. The nursery is a charity that uses fees to cover the staff salaries, setting costs (rent, utilities, and maintenance) and supplies. Any excess funds earned during the year are either re-invested in the nursery or held in reserve, however most years there is not expected to be excess funds.

Fees are payable for 39 weeks a year, term time only.

A. Deposit

A refundable deposit is required to secure the place offered at St Augustine's Nursery. The deposit may be returned when the child leaves the setting, provided one month notice has been given in writing and there are no arrears in payments.

When requesting the refund of your deposit, please do so in writing and include your banking details for the refund to be issued.

Place offered	Deposit
Funded two year old place	£30
Fee paying place or Funded 3&4 year old place	£50
Fee paying places for several siblings	£50 for first child + £25 for each sibling

B. Funded early education for two, three and four year olds

The St Augustine's Committee makes every effort to seek grant-based funding to develop and sustain the nursery, thereby keeping costs to a minimum and ensuring that fees are affordable to the local community.

Some two-year-old children are entitled to 15 hours per week of funded early education from the term after their second birthday. These eligible children may attend the nursery for 2.5 days, free of charge, upon presentation of a written proof of eligibility during registration. This funded childcare entitlement continues after the child's 3rd birthday as they become eligible for the Universal Entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds.

All 3- and 4-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours per week of funded early education through the universal Nursery Education Grant (NEG).

Some 3- and 4-year-olds are entitled to a further 15 hours per week, taking the total to 30 hours per week. See www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare

Parents will need to apply and provide proof of eligibility to the 30 hours funded childcare. It is the parents' responsibility to re-check eligibility when needed. Should a child no longer be eligible for the 30 hours childcare, they will revert to 15 funded hours or be offered to pay for the extra 15 hours.

Children who are entitled to 15 hours funded childcare may access further 15 hours childcare at a fee. Families with a subsidised place may be able to pay a reduced rate at the discretion of the nursery manager (please ask).

D. Childcare fees

Fees are charged on a termly basis in advance and are payable in two payments at the beginning and middle of the term, within a week of invoice. The initial payment of fees will be determined by the child's start date and will include all sessions from that date up to the end of the term.

The fees are outlined below, this table may be updated as and when fees change.

Hours	Weekly fees
15 hours	£95 per week*
30 hours	£190 per week*

- All fees must be paid by bank transfer unless agreed otherwise with the manager The nursery operates in term time only so there is no charge for school holidays.
- Concessions are not made for absences or inset (staff training) days.
- The nursery reserves the right to review the fees, which will normally be done in the summer term with the new fees beginning in September.

* Not payable if criteria for funded hours is met.

Childcare Vouchers

The nursery participates in the Childcare Voucher Scheme, a tax and national insurance relief scheme offered by the Government. If your employer participates in this scheme, you may wish to pay your nursery fees this way. We accept vouchers from most organisations. If the voucher does not cover the full fees, we will arrange for you to pay the difference via bank transfer.

Discounts

The nursery prides itself for developing good relationships with the families attending the setting and thus often provides childcare for the siblings of a family.

When there is more than one child from the same household attending nursery at a same time, a discount of 25% will be given to the other sibling(s).

E. Late collection fee

If a parent is late collecting their child, they will be charged a Late Collection Fee (this includes children whose place is subsidised).

Parents will be charged £10 for each 5 minutes that they are late past pick-up time. Repeated lateness of less than 5 minutes at pick up times will be marked on the register and will incur a similar fee when three are reached.

Staff will inform the late parent on the day or on the next day of nursery if they are required to pay; this fee must be paid within a week of the late collection.

F. Arrears

Fees charges are crucial to the nursery's cashflow. They must be paid in advance, within a week of being issued, to ensure your account does not go in arrears. The Local Authority maintain a no arrears policy, which we adhere to.

Should parents/carers find themselves in financial difficulty, we ask that they come to speak to the manager as soon as possible to make arrangements to pay their fees in a manageable manner. Repayment plans can be discussed and arranged on a case-by-case basis.

In all cases of arrears, the manager will contact the parents/carers with a reminder to pay. If the overdue fees are not paid within 1 week of the reminder being sent, the overdue fees will incur a charge of £10, which will accrue as much for each week that the fees are left unpaid.

- If fees are consistently paid late or left unpaid, the child's place at St Augustine's Nursery will be at risk. As stated in the Admissions Policy, this will also result in a sibling's application for admission being at risk.
- If the situation cannot be resolved, the place will be given to the next child on the waiting list.
- It is your responsibility to pay the correct fees on time.

G. Emergency Closure

In unavoidable and exceptional circumstances, such as the failure of essential services (e.g. heating or water systems), building damage, fire outbreak, severe weather conditions, or an illness epidemic it may be necessary for the setting to close all or part of the nursery at short notice to ensure the safety of all.

In such situations, fees will remain payable for up to three consecutive days of closure and a 35% of the daily fee will be due after this, until the setting reopens. If the full fees have already been paid, the balance will appear in credit and will be forwarded to the following half term.

However, during an illness epidemic, when an individual or group (children and adults) have to self-isolate for a quarantine period, the full fees remain payable to the nursery.

H. Notice

A minimum of one months' notice is required if you no longer require your nursery place. Fees are due as usual during this notice period. In the event of a parent withdrawing their child without any notice given, one month's fees will be due to the nursery in lieu of notice and the full deposit will be forfeited.

The notice needs to be made in writing to the manager during opening times. If a notice is sent during holiday times, the next opening day will be considered as the first day of notice.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

St. Augustine's Nursery

Held on (date)

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee

Role of signatory
