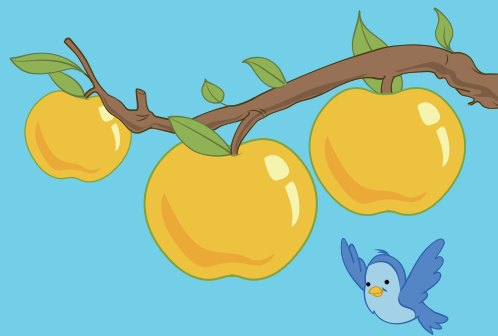




2025



Enhanced Provision and Additional Service Charges



Golden Apples
DAY NURSERY

Nurturing great potential



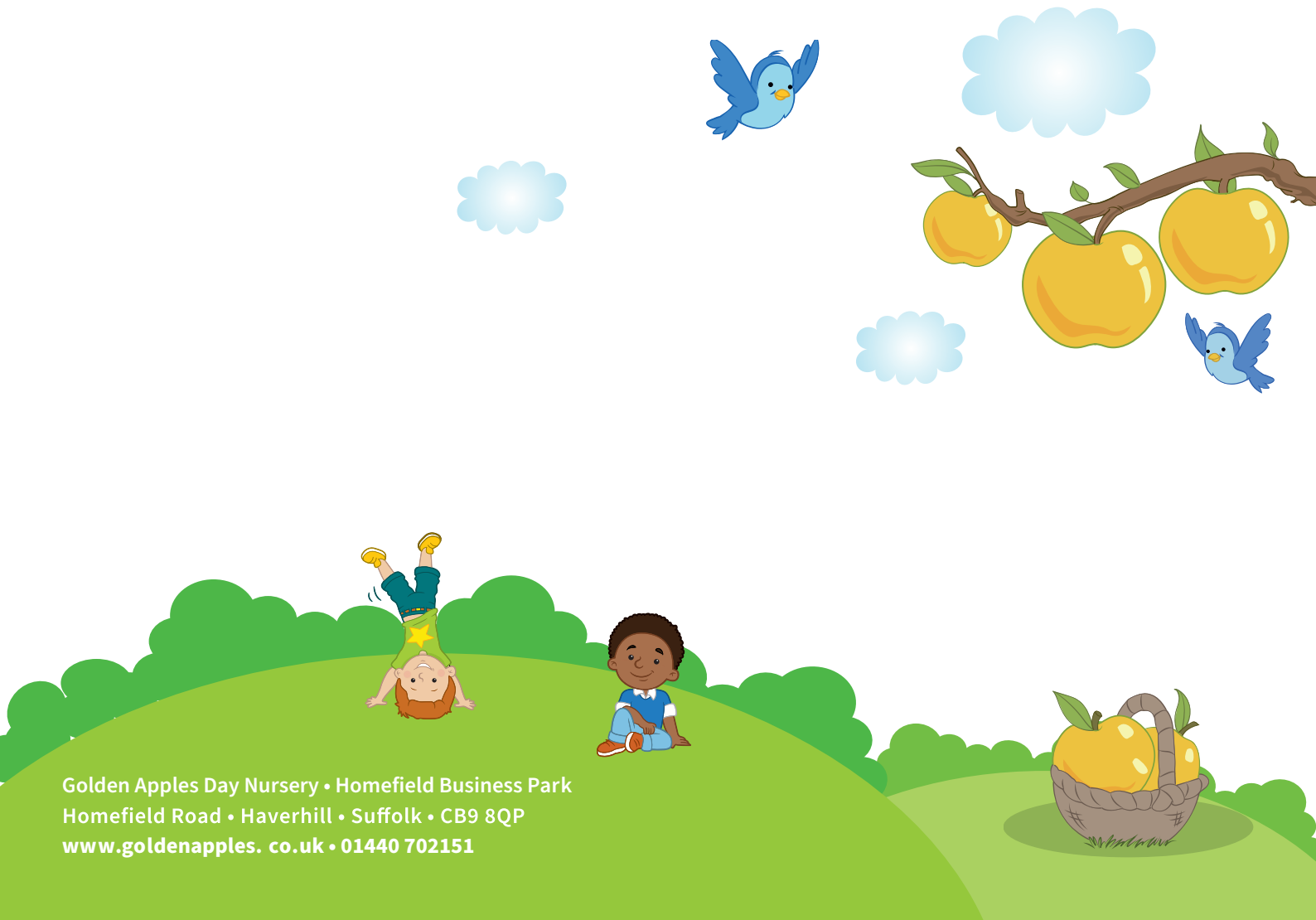
Your Funded Nursery Hours

From April 2025, government guidance requires nurseries offering funded places to clearly break down any charges for consumables and additional services or Enhanced Provision. At Golden Apples, we have always been transparent about what we offer, and this information is published on our website.

This document explains what is included in your government funding, what we offer beyond that, and why we make an Additional Service Charge.

Under the new legislation, we must provide transparency to parents and an option to “opt out” of additional service charges, if the parent only wants to access the funded hours (with no extras.)

This document was produced in March 2025 with the most recent Government Guidance in mind. If you would like anything explained further, please speak to the Nursery Manager.

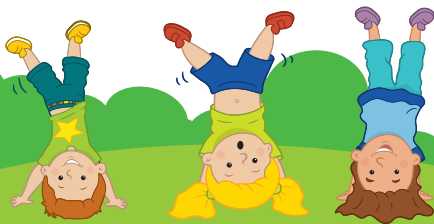


Government Funding Covers the Basics

Government funding covers a basic Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision, which includes items such as:

- ✓ Small world figures, role play materials, puzzles, books, and basic craft supplies.
- ✓ Sand and water play.
- ✓ Loose parts and construction toys.
- ✓ A staffing level that meets minimum government ratios.

Funding is provided for settings to offer a basic provision of EYFS that meets the statutory requirements.



What is outside of the scope of the funding?

As the Government Funding is there to cover the basic provision of EYFS, there are certain things that are EXCLUDED from funding. Examples of these are:

- ✗ Meals, desserts and snacks.
- ✗ Wipes, nappy bags and reapplication of suncream throughout the day.
- ✗ Extra activities such as walks, gardening, cooking, music, special events or extra-curricular activities.
- ✗ Additional high-quality resources such as sensory equipment, woodwork tools, baking supplies, or specialist educational sessions.

We strongly believe that early years education should be rich, engaging, and full of real-world experiences. To go beyond the basics and provide the quality of care and learning we are proud of, we offer an enhanced provision—which costs more to deliver than government funding provides.

An underfunded political problem

Many nurseries are choosing to stop offering funded places because government funding does not cover the true cost of quality early years education.

Historically, settings have covered this cost by charging for all the additional things they do, over and above a “basic provision.”

We have always covered the cost of our enhanced provision by making an hourly charge called “Additional Service Charge.” This has allowed us to provide our funded children with a rich curriculum full of learning opportunities and experiences.

At Golden Apples, we want to continue offering funded places, but this is only possible if parents understand why we make an hourly Additional Service Charge and “opt in” to continue to pay it, as they have been doing.

Without this cost being met in this way, we may need to reduce the level of enrichment activities we provide or stop providing funded places in the future.

We appreciate that our parents have opted to send their child to Golden Apples as they want the full Golden Apples experience for their child. Charging an hourly “Additional Service Charge” fee to parents accessing our Enhanced Provision will allow us to maintain the exceptional care and learning experiences we are known for.



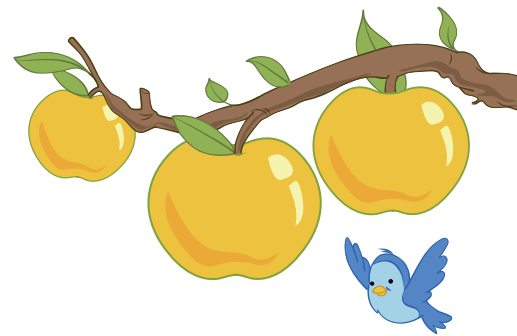
Parent Action - Opt-In or Opt-Out

The Additional Service Charge & Enhanced Provision

We have always provided an enriched early years' experience, full of hands-on learning and exciting activities. For those parents who are already accessing funded hours, you will have seen an Additional Service Charge on your invoice each month.

If you choose "Opt In" your monthly invoices will not change

The latest Government directive tells us that we must now make this an optional charge to parents. Parents can choose to Opt in to the charge or Opt Out. If parents opt out, we must provide an alternative to you which would enable you to access your funded hours only, with no additional charge required.



Your choice

Opt-In

- 🍏 All meals and snacks, including breakfast, lunch, dinner, desserts, morning and afternoon healthy snacks and fresh fruit prepared by a house chef.
- 🍏 Consumables, including wipes, nappy bags and reapplication of sun cream.
- 🍏 Specialist learning experiences, including walks, gardening and cooking sessions.
- 🍏 Enrichment programs, such as dance and music classes, enhancing ratios. This list is not exhaustive and all settings activities may vary.
- 🍏 Additional learning resources, such as sensory equipment, baking supplies, art materials, and school readiness programs.
- 🍏 Seasonal Specialist events and family fun days (Halloween, Easter, Christmas, Family Fun Days, Graduation Days and Stay+Play sessions)

Opt-Out

Parents who opt-out will receive:

- ✓ Access to the basic EYFS provision as funded by the government.
- ✓ Their funded hours free of charge.

However, opting out means:

- 🍏 Parents must provide all snacks for their child, in line with our food policy.
- 🍏 Parents must supply their own consumables, including nappy bags, wipes, and sun cream.
- 🍏 Even though some enhanced provision experiences may not be included, but we will always ensure a high standard of care as an alternative
- 🍏 Funded hours for opt-out families will be provided in accordance with our published sessions. This will mean days may change from term to term, dependant on nursery availability

Cost breakdown

The Cost of the Additional Service Charge (as currently shown on invoices) is:

10-hour funded session: £26.40

6-hour funded session: £15.84

5 hour funded session: £13.20

These costs allow us to maintain the high standards of provision that families at Golden Apples expect.

This cost is ALREADY on your invoice and will not change if you “opt in” to Additional Service Cost.

We need you to Opt in or Opt out when you submit your Funding/ Enrolment Form

Please see below which summarises our position.

Your Choice Regarding Funded Hours & Additional Service Charge

As stated above, from April 2025, government guidance requires nurseries to clearly separate out additional charges from funded places.

At Golden Apples, we have always been transparent about what we provide, and we are committed to maintaining the high-quality experiences that make our nursery special.

Why Are We Asking You to Opt In or Out of the Additional Service Charge when I have always paid this on my invoice?

If you opt in to our Additional Service Charge, your invoice will not change or increase from where it is now (In line with our price list which is reviewed yearly). The government funding only covers the basic Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision. This includes standard toys, books, puzzles, and minimum staffing levels.



However, it does not cover:

- ✗ Meals and snacks
- ✗ Nappy bags, wipes, reapplication of suncream
- ✗ Walks, cooking, and Enrichment activities or equipment.
- ✗ Seasonal events like Christmas parties, Family fun days, and special projects

To continue offering the high-quality experiences that our families value, we invoice an Additional Service Charge to contribute to these costs when parents access their funded hours.

What Are My Options?

We are asking all parents to complete the relevant Funding Pack.

OPTION 1 – Opt In: Your child will continue to fully access all meals, consumables, and enrichment activities, just as they do now. The Additional Service Charge is:

10-hour funded session: £26.40

6-hour funded session: £15.84

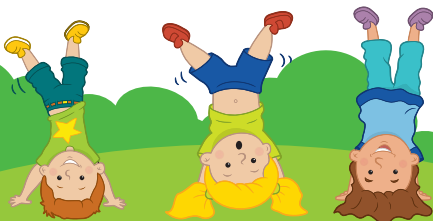
5 hour funded session: £13.20

OPTION 2 – Opt Out: Your child will still receive their published funded hours free of charge (and a basic EYFS provision) but you will need to supply all meals, and consumables yourself. Your child will be offered a suitable alternative EYFS provision as per the government policy but will not be able to access the full Golden Apples provision. We will discuss this with you further should you opt out.

What Happens Next?

If you opt in, nothing will change – you will continue to receive invoices as usual as your child will have full access to the full Golden Apples experience, including all the enrichment programmes. Your child's experience at Golden Apples will be unchanged.

If you opt out, we will discuss how we can accommodate your child's needs and schedule their funded hours based on our availability, ensuring they have full access to the basic EYFS provision.



Many nurseries are choosing to stop offering funded places because the funding does not cover the true cost of delivering childcare. At Golden Apples, we want to continue offering funded places, but this is only possible with the support of our families.

We hope that our parents see the value in our Additional Service Charge and choose to opt in so we can continue to operate as we always have done and can continue to provide the exceptional experiences that make our nursery special.

Please return your Opt-In/Opt-Out response at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, feel free to speak to us.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

