



Nursery Sessions

Questions:

1. Will my child have a repeat of a previous session if they attend all day?

No. Your child will have a balance so that over their sessions they access the appropriate Foundation Stage curriculum. On full attendance days your child's activities will be adapted to ensure personalised provision through a balanced range of activities.

2. Can I use Childcare vouchers?

Yes. At present we use quite a few registered childcare voucher companies. We can register with other voucher providers should your employer use someone different to those with whom we are already registered. Please, just bear in mind that this may take time to set up.

3. Will my child settle if they are with different children in each day?

We find that having a large number of children to socialise with has always been a benefit to children at Grove Road. The key worker system will support your child to develop friendships within the Nursery.

4. What extra staffing is provided?

We maintain high staff ratios to support small work/activity groups led by trained Teachers and Teaching Assistants (TAs) who have been trained in Childcare, Learning and Development.

5. Is the nursery school polo shirt compulsory?

Children in Nursery are not required to wear school uniform but are encouraged to wear a nursery school polo shirt.

6. Will there be a smooth start and end to the day?

At present the children settle in with a range of activities provided before the teacher gathers the class together. This period would be a little longer than in a normal classroom environment and that is desirable. There are good opportunities for parents to talk to their child's key worker or teacher at the beginning and end of the day.

7. What is on offer at lunchtime?

The £5.05 lunch club charge is for one hour of childcare over the lunch period. You will need to provide a packed lunch for your child or purchase a hot school lunch. The Lunch Club is supervised by their familiar nursery staff and mid-day supervisors.

8. Won't children get tired attending all day?

Some more than others! On full attendance days your child will have time built in to play and we ensure personalised provision through a balanced range of activities. The good adult child ratio allows for different groups of children to enjoy appropriate care and experiences at a pace that suits them.

9. Can Nursery children attend the After School Club?

Not at present due to the high staff ratio required by Ofsted. Your local Family Information Service (FIS) can assist you with registered child minders and their availability.

10. Will I get the sessions I need?

Nursery places are allocated by Hertfordshire County Council using their Admission Policy and online application process. Once you have been allocated a nursery place at our school, the sessions will be allocated by the school. The level of choice depends on the numbers of pupils on roll.

11. What if the school is closed? Will I be charged for the session?

You will never be charged for additional sessions if the school is closed. If the school is closed when you normally have a government funded session, the funded session cannot be moved.

12. Will I be charged for additional sessions if I go on holiday in term time?

Yes, you will still be charged as we still have staffing costs to cover.

13. Once I have a place at Nursery, does this guarantee me a place in Reception?

No. You will have to apply on-line for a Reception place. This is normally done in the autumn term.

14. Can I add sessions at a half term?

No. You will only be able to add sessions termly. These will then be fixed for the term. Only invoices will be sent out half-termly.

15. I have recently moved into the area, but have missed the on-line application process for a school nursery place. What do I need to do?

Contact the Nursery Administrator at the school for availability of a place and the process you will need to follow. Session choices may be more limited if applying after the on-line process has closed.

16. How do I check if I'm entitled to the additional 15 hours funding, on top of the 15 hours I already receive?

You need to apply on-line at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

17. I am now eligible for 30 hours funding. What do I need to do?

Funding is applied termly. You will need to complete a Parent Declaration Form to confirm your funding. This can only be applied termly, so if you become eligible half way through a term, it can only be applied for the following term.

18. I am no longer eligible for 30 hours funding?

Funding is applied termly. If you are no longer eligible for this additional funding, then you will need to pay for your additional sessions or lunch club above your funded level.

19. Are Nursery children able to receive Free School Meals?

No. Nursery children are not entitled to Free School Meals, even if you are claiming certain benefits. Benefit related Free School Meal entitlement is only available when they start in Reception.

20. Can I use Tax-Free Childcare?

Yes. This is a new government initiative to help parents with the cost of childcare. You can apply through www.childcarechoices.gov.uk if you would like to use Tax-Free Childcare to pay for additional sessions or lunch clubs.

21. Can you use Tax-Free childcare and Nursery Vouchers to pay for additional sessions?

No. You can only use one of these schemes. You can use the additional funding with both schemes.

If you have any other queries regarding our School Nursery, please ask to speak to our Nursery Administrator, Mrs Sharon Wheeler on 01442 822056 or email: sharon.wheeler@groveroad.herts.sch.uk.