



Casa Montessori Nursery

Early Years funding policy

Our approach

At Casa Montessori, we are proud to offer a rich, nurturing and highly stimulating Montessori environment where children thrive.

We participate in the Government Early Years Funding scheme to support families with childcare costs. However, it is important to understand that government funding covers only the basic EYFS entitlement and does not reflect the true cost of delivering our full Montessori provision.

Government funding is intended to support the delivery of basic early education and care only. It is not designed to cover the cost of meals, snacks, consumables (such as materials and hygiene items), specialist activities, or enhanced resources, all of which are permitted additional charges.

1. Funded places we offer

We offer funded early education places in line with government guidance:

- 15 hours funding (universal entitlement)
- 30 hours funding (extended entitlement for eligible families)

Funding is available for 38 weeks per year (term time only).

We also support the use of Tax-Free Childcare, which can be used alongside funded hours to reduce overall costs. Funded-only places are limited and subject to availability. Priority is given to families accessing a full place, including additional hours and services.



2. How funding is applied

Funded hours are applied to the first booked hours of attendance each week. Sessions are offered in set attendance patterns, agreed in advance. Once funded hours are used, any additional hours are charged at standard nursery rates

3. What Government funding covers

Government funding contributes towards:

- Basic early education and care
- Delivery of the EYFS curriculum

It does not cover the full cost of providing:

- Specialist teaching and activities
- Enriched Montessori curriculum and specialist materials and resources
- Meals and snacks
- Consumables and hygiene items
- Specialist activities and enrichment experiences (e.g. Playball, jujitsu, Forest School, etc)

4. Our enriched provision

All children attending Casa Montessori benefit from a carefully designed, high-quality experience which includes:

- Daily Montessori teaching by experienced Montessori qualified practitioners
- Language-rich interactions and cultural learning
- Specialist sessions such as music, movement and outdoor learning
- Forest School experiences
- Cooking and practical life activities
- Community engagement and outings



- Freshly prepared, nutritious meals and snacks
- High-quality learning materials and environments
- Individual learning journeys and development tracking

These elements are central to our provision and form part of every child's daily experience.

5. Additional charges

To deliver this level of care and education, additional charges apply alongside funded hours.

These cover:

Meals and snacks

- Freshly prepared lunches
- Healthy snacks throughout the day

Consumables

- Hygiene items (including nappy cream, sunscreen, soap, wipes, tissues and cleaning supplies)

Specialist activities and enrichment

- Drama and movement/storytelling sessions
- Playball
- Forest School
- Cooking club
- Enrichment experiences and outings

These contributions ensure that every child can fully access the complete Casa experience and allow us to maintain the quality we are known for.



In line with government guidance, parents may request to opt out of additional charges. We request that wherever possible, parents continue to pay these charges. If parents opt out that would not enable us to offer the high-quality learning experiences that are so important to the children's experience at Casa.

We will ensure that children who opt-out continue to receive care in line with the EYFS, but please note the following adaptations that will need to be made should you wish to opt out of the charges.

Alternatives offered

Where parents do not wish to purchase optional extras, the following alternatives are available:

- For lunches: Our setting does not permit packed lunches due to food safety requirements and food allergies. In line with guidance from Environmental Health and the Food Standards Agency, we are unable to accept food brought from home because we cannot guarantee safe temperature control, compliance with food hygiene regulations and food allergens. Parents opting out must: Collect their child for all meals and snack times, provide food off-site and return their child afterwards; or choose sessions that fall out of lunchtimes.
- For snacks, parents may provide their own fruits.
- For consumables (nappies, wipes, tissues, soap, suncream, nappy bags, etc.), parents may provide their own.
- For activities involving an additional charge (drama and movement/storytelling, Playball, Forest school, cooking activities), a child not taking part is offered alternative provision giving them the same quality of opportunity as their peers.



Alternative activities will be provided; however, these will not replicate the same specialist experiences.

6. Important considerations

Our provision is designed to be fully inclusive and consistent for all children. Choosing to opt out makes it difficult for us to deliver this effectively.

We kindly ask you to consider the impact opting out may have on your child's experience, as well as on the nursery's ability to participate in the government funding scheme, which is designed to make high-quality childcare more accessible and affordable for families.

Parents who pay the extra charges must give us full written notice of at least one term to opt out, so we have time to adjust to support our sustainability.

Where funded places are not sustainable, the nursery reserves the right to:

- Limit the availability of funded places
- Decline or withdraw funded arrangements
- Review attendance patterns and funded hours

Government funding is subject to strict eligibility and attendance requirements, and local authorities regularly monitor attendance patterns.

7. Parent responsibilities

Parents are responsible for completing and signing all required funding documentation, including the parent declaration form, and for ensuring that their eligibility always remains valid. This includes reconfirming eligibility codes with HMRC (where applicable) within the required timeframes.

If funding is not received, delayed, or withdrawn for any reason, including failure to provide valid documentation, missed reconfirmation deadlines, or ineligibility, the nursery reserves the right to charge the full private fee for all attended hours, and these costs will become the responsibility of the parent.

The nursery Government funding is subject to strict eligibility and attendance requirements, and local authorities regularly monitor attendance patterns. If a child's attendance does not meet these requirements — including repeated absences, regular late arrivals, or early collections that reduce access to funded hours — the local authority may withdraw funding or reclaim it from the nursery.

In such circumstances, the nursery reserves the right to charge parents for the affected sessions at the full private hourly rate, and any reclaimed funding will become the responsibility of the parent.

8. Deposits and registration fees

Children attending on a funded-hours-only basis are not required to pay a registration fee. Any deposit paid to secure the place will be refunded within one week of the nursery receiving the first funding payment from the local authority.

Please note, if you later choose to increase your child's attendance to include additional paid hours, the registration fee and full deposit will become payable. The deposit will then be held on account and is refundable against your final invoice, subject to receipt of the required full written notice in line with our terms and conditions.

9. Transparency and review

We are committed to:

- Clear and transparent communication
- Compliance with government funding requirements
- Regular review of this policy



Final statement

At Casa Montessori, we believe every child deserves access to exceptional early education.

Government funding helps support this, but it does not fully fund it.

Your contributions enable us to maintain the quality, care and experiences that make Casa Montessori a truly special place to learn and grow.

This policy was adopted by Casa Montessori Richmond
On the 23/03/2026

Date to be reviewed 23/03/2027

Signed on behalf of the provider,

By the Director and owner