Opt-out Consumables Policy

You have chosen Pendle Court Day Nursery for the high standards of care we provide, the enriching learning environment we strive to achieve, the nutritious menus on offer, the range of extracurricular activities available and the highly qualified staff caring for your children in our unique environment.

Government funding generally covers only core hours not the additional elements that enhance the learning environment or ensure sustainability of the setting.

As per legal guidelines providers can charge for extras not covered by the government funding including food, non-food consumables and extra activities. However please note that these are not a condition for accessing a government funded place.

The funded hours cover the cost of providing staffing and education, but they do not include the everyday consumables and extras that are essential to running a high-quality childcare setting.

Please see appendix A for full detailed current list

Consumables include items we use daily to care for and support your child's learning and well-being, the government funding doesn't cover these, yet they are a crucial part of your child's day. There are some parts of PCDN that makes us unique and the reason you chose us, such as being easily accessible, dedicated parent parking, a purpose built building and high-quality staff (that we can't pass over the costs to you).

We understand that parents have the option to provide their own food and daily consumables for their child however if every family chose this route, it would create significant challenges.

- Staff would need to manage and track different food, activities and supplies for every individual child, which would take attention away from caring and teaching.
- It would complicate routines such as snack and mealtimes where consistency is important
- It would reduce the sense of fairness and inclusion for children, as some might be experiencing different things from others.

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To keep nursery running smoothly, fairly and sustainably we ask parents to support us by paying the voluntary consumable charges. This helps us maintain the same high standard of care and experiences for every child, reduces extra responsibilities for the staff and ensure that all children have access to the same high quality enriching experience throughout the day.

Many nurseries are choosing to stop offering funded places because the government doesn't cover the true cost of quality early years education.

Historically settings have covered the cost by charging for all the additional things they do over and above the "basic provision"

We have covered the cost of our fabulous home cooked nutritious meals, consumables and enhanced provision by adding an additional charge called consumables (this changed to Essential and Enhanced Provision in April 2025). This charge has allowed us to provide a fully inclusive service for our funded children with a rich curriculum full of learning opportunities, experiences and fabulous home cooked hot meals daily.

Without the costs of the delivery being met in this way we may have to look at the flexibility of how we offer the funded services. Currently we allow you to utilise the funded services over the minimum number of days claiming the maximum of 10 hours per day, we aren't restrictive where you use the funded hours along as they fit within our session times, therefore benefiting from no restrictions to your funding, (a more strict model we would maybe have to consider such as 7.30-13.30 would increase most parents costs significantly).

We appreciate that our parents have chosen PCDN, and by asking for an hourly Essential and Enhanced Provision contribution this allows us to maintain the exceptional care and learning opportunities we are known for.

We have always provided an enriched early years' experience, full hands-on learning and exciting activities. For those parents who are already accessing funding you will have seen the consumable charge now appears more detailed on your invoice, it is now broken down into 3 sections and listed as an individual hourly amount, the actual cost hasn't changed.

Whilst the cost is shown as hourly it is the session broken down into the hours as we appreciate not every cost applies to each hour, and not every child will experience every aspect each day, but across the term, year group they will.

Consumable charges only apply to days/sessions funded by the government they are not added to any private additional hours.

1. Food Cost £1.50 per hour

Healthy food supports children's development learning and well-being. Our nutritious well-balanced meals are designed to encourage healthy eating habits and shared mealtimes build social confidence and curiosity.

All meals and snacks are freshly prepared on site by our chefs, housekeepers or trained staff, with all allergens and dietary needs being carefully monitored and managed. Providing consistent meals to all children in attendance supports our ethos of safety and inclusion.

If you chose to opt out of the food consumable charge you are opting out all together and no meals or snacks will be available.

This would mean the snacks and meals must be provided in full for the session your child is booked in

7.30-9.00 breakfast

9.00-12.00 snack

12.00-13.00 2 course lunch

13.00-16.00 snack

16.00-18.00 2 course tea

The agreed food must be provided in accordance with our nutritional guidance in the event of items that are forgotten, we will not be able to provide such snacks or meals, you will be expected to take your child home or return to nursery within 30 minutes with the missing agreed items. We will issue 2 warnings for such events, on the third your place with us will be terminated.

Each breakfast/snack should be in a small sealed box clearly marked with your child's name; all ingredients and allergens and date must be listed on the label. The breakfast should be a cereal without added sugar, chocolate or nuts (ideally cornflakes, rice Krispies Weetabix or Cheerios) and a piece of bread (no nuts or grains) for us to toast if required, we will provide the milk. The snacks should be consistent with the current menu see appendix B. The label should also note any food allergies or intolerances. If you are providing 2 snacks, please mark AM and PM. Please note we are unable to offer refrigeration of snacks and drinks, they should be provided within an insulated secure bag with an ice pack clearly labelled with your child's name.

All lunches and teas should follow the current nutrition guidance which we will provide the current up to date advice as required and arrive at nursery frozen in a container that is securely covered but can be reheated in the oven. The meal will be reheated to 75 degrees and allowed to cool before serving. It should be clearly marked with your child's name; all ingredients and allergens must be listed on the label. The label should also note any food allergies or intolerances. We will not accept a packed lunch box as an alternative to a cooked meal. A piece of fruit must be supplied for pudding for both Lunch and Tea.

This is the only method that we can abide by the environmental Health Advice on temperature control for food being served to children under 5 years of age who are particularly vulnerable to food poisoning.

2.Non-food 25p per hour

To ensure comfort hygiene and safety we provide essential daily items, this allows us to meet every child's needs reliably and consistently. If you are opting out you must provide all essential items daily and nothing can be stockpiled or stored at nursery, if any items are missing you will be asked to bring them for your child.

Daily fresh bedding must be provided including a fitted sheet and a cellular blanket with the appropriate tog rating for the season, this must be taken home each day as we don't have

sufficient storage space, due to allergies it must be provided in a sealed bag and where possible washed in non-bio washing powder and no contact with pets and animals.

Named suncream (minimum SPF 50) should be applied and brought in each day and taken home overnight as we don' have sufficient storage space.

Spare clothing must be provided appropriate to the weather including sun hat and outdoor splash suits.

You will have access to the parent zone app where you will be able to see your child's development and progress and add your own pictures at the end of your time at nursery a downloadable learning journey from i-connect and send via we transfer. If you chose to opt out you will be given a daily handover, all assessments and tracking will be printed as carried out and a printed transition document at the end of nursery will also be provided

3.Activities £1.25 per hour

Throughout the week we have various extra-curricular activities on offer that enrich our environment and not essential to meet the EYFS but we feel these are a very important part of our curriculum and one of the many reasons you chose PCDN, these are highlighted in Appendix A.

We have visits from Sandersons dance where we do Street dance/Acro tots energise exercise to extend the older children's understanding of rhythm and movement

We have a weekly football session where the children participate in a controlled coaching session, and understand the need to work as a team and take turns

The younger children experience Hartbeeps twice weekly this is music session, it is an interactive, multi-sensory musical class designed for babies and toddlers, featuring original songs, puppetry, props, and themed adventures that support early childhood development and family bonding. The classes are led by trained teachers, incorporate baby signing, and use creative, research-backed methods to immerse children in a world of magic and play.

Toddle up and sign is offered weekly this is an interactive way to learn to some sign language using songs, rhymes and sensory play.

We also have Buddha bears which is an interactive class for our children where they experience the calming environment of the yoga and the wobble yoga boards.

We offer outings for all age groups throughout the years to local parks. Library, churches, cafes etc with high adult to child ratios needed to ensure safety.

Our additional education and enrichment programme enhances your child's learning with new and exciting opportunities that support curiosity, creativity and their holistic development, each age group is offered a tailored environment and enrichment programme. Along with high quality resources such as sensory equipment, baking supplies and specialist educational programmes. Planned experiences where possible are planned and are only available to those who have opted in, alternative activities will be provided for children opting out of activities charges. If you chose to opt out it may be necessary for your child to be cared for in a different room whilst still accessing age appropriate EYFS activities. We are blessed with an allotment, and your children will experience age-appropriate activities with plants and seeds for children to learn about growing and the food cycle.

Throughout the year we will celebrate festivals from varied cultures such as Chinese New Year, Diwali Eid and Christmas.

Parents – carers may choose to opt out of any of the three categories but must give one full term written notice, received no later than the working day before the new term begins. We are happy to answer any queries and questions re opting out via email, but ultimately a meeting with a member of the management team must be arranged prior to this to fully understand the implications of opting out and finalise arrangements.

If you wish to opt out of the

Spring term starting 1st January notice must be given by 31st August

Summer term starting 1st April notice must be given by 31st December

Autumn term starting 1st September notice must be given by March

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail, please speak to a member of the nursery management team. We are here to support you and ensure your child receives the best possible experience with us.

Appendix A

Consumables

Food:

Home-cooked meals and snacks including breakfast lunch and tea that cater for allergens/other dietary needs such as vegetarian/halal

Catering staff that are responsible for preparing the cooked meals

Housekeepers for preparing and serving the meals and snacks and cleaning the dining areas

PPE for food preparation and serving

Training: Food Hygiene, Food Allergens

Additional Refuge charges and recycling charges for food waste

Additional food and dietary requirements

Food equipment to prepare the food

Equipment for preparing meals such as ovens, microwaves dishwashers etc

Actual food costs

Activities:

Football

Yoga

Outings

Bus and train fares

Millie and Miles education programme

Forestry

Allotment and gardening club and resources

Plants and seeds for the allotment

Caterpillars for learning about natures life cycles

Celebration days and festivals from varied cultures throughout the year

Visitors from external agencies and professionals

Halloween party

Easter Egg

Leavers gifts/party for children who transition to school

Non-Food:

Iconnect tablets, the delivery and the use of the app and the safety of the internet cost

Freshly laundered bedding and clothing, facecloths etc

Outdoor waterproof clothing

Suncream

Emergency non-prescription medication

Changes of clothes as required

Appendix B

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereals and toast Milk or water
Morning snack	Crackers with Cheese Spread Milk or water	Veg Sticks Milk or water	Breadsticks & Humous Milk or water	Fruit Milk or water	Cheese and Grapes Milk or water

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Lunch	Cheese flan with boiled potatoes & baked beans Fresh Fruit Salad	Beef and bean casserole with rice Cake	Tuna Pasta Bake Bananas & Custard	Chicken cobbler with roast potatoes & vegetables Yoghurt	Sausage and Mash with vegetables with onion gravy Jelly and Ice Cream
Afternoon snack	Apple & Banana Milk or water	Crumpets Milk or Water	Pears and Oranges Milk and Water	Toast Milk or water	Cucumber & Peppers Milk or water
Tea	Sandwiches & Crisps Rice Pudding	Homemade Pizza & Spaghetti Fruit	Cottage Pie Fruit	Mascarpone pasta & garlic bread Sponge Cake	Veggie Lasagne Fruit

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereals and toast Milk or water
Morning snack	Breadsticks Milk or water	Fruit Milk or water	Apples and Pears Milk or water	Crumpets Milk or water	Veg Sticks Milk or water
Lunch	Corned Beef Hash and peas Rice Pudding	Turkey Dinner & all the trimmings Yoghurt	Cheese and onion pie, potatoes, and baked beans Peaches and Ice-Cream	Chilli and Rice with green beans Chocolate Sponge & Peppermint Sauce	Tuna pasta bake Raspberry Buns
Afternoon snack	Apples & Bananas Milk or water	Veg Sticks Milk or water	Crackers & Cheese spread Milk or water	Oranges & Grapes Milk or water	Pitta & Humous Milk or water
Tea	Pasta in cheese sauce Fruit	Sandwiches and Crisps Babies - Soup Jelly	Chicken Curry and Rice Fruit	Homemade Pizza and Spaghetti Hoops Fruit	Jacket Potato with cheese and beans Custard

Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereals and toast Milk or water
Morning snack	Crackers with Cheese Spread Milk or water	Veg Sticks Milk or water	Bananas & Oranges Milk or water	Cheese and Apple Milk or water	Veg Sticks Milk or water
Lunch	Homemade pizza with boiled potatoes and spaghetti hoops Bananas & Ice Cream	Meatballs and Spaghetti in a tomato sauce Fruit Salad	Fisherman's Pie with Peas Custard	Cottage Pie Chocolate Chip Cake	Lamb cobbler with roast potatoes & vegetables Rice Pudding

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Afternoon snack	Apple and Pears Milk or water	Cheese and Grapes Milk or water	Toast Milk or water	Breadsticks Milk or water	Crackers and Cheese Spread Milk or water
Tea	Veggie Chilli and Rice Yoghurt	Egg and cheese flan & beans Jelly	Chicken Hotpot Fruit	Sandwiches and Crisps Babies - Soup Fruit	Mascarpone Pasta and Garlic bread Fruit

Week 4	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereal and toast Milk or water	Breakfast cereals and toast Milk or water
Morning snack	Breadsticks Milk or water	Apple and Orange Milk or water	Bananas & pears Milk or water	Veg Sticks Milk or water	Melon & Grapes Milk or water
Lunch	Tuna Pasta Bake Yoghurt	Sausage Casserole with mashed potatoes Jelly & Fruit	Homemade pizza with potatoes & spaghetti hoops Rice Pudding	Turkey Dinner With Broccoli and Cauliflower Jam Sponge & Custard	Lasagne with Garlic Bread Peaches & Ice Cream
Afternoon snack	Cheese and Grapes Milk or water	Veg sticks Milk or water	Toast Milk or water	Cracker and Cheese Milk or water	Pitta & Humous Milk or water
Tea	Corned Beef Hash with peas Fruit	Spaghetti Bolognese Custard	Chicken Curry and Rice Fruit	Fish Pie Fruit	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese and Beans Fruit