



Minehead Pre School Fees Policy A Member of Beacon Education

We welcome every child and their family into a safe and nurturing environment. Children here are immersed in our captivating curriculum, which lays the foundations for each child to be a confident lifelong learner.

1. Introduction

Minehead Pre School is situated on the site of Minehead First School to allow the two settings to work cohesively and harmoniously. Both Minehead Pre School and Minehead First School are members of Beacon Education.

We welcome children from two years of age into a high quality, safe and stimulating learning environment, which is good value for money.

2. Session Times and Hourly Rates

Minehead Pre School is open Monday – Friday during term time only (39 weeks in the year). The Pre School closes for Bank Holidays and INSET days during the year, dates of these will be sent out and can be found on the Pre-School website (part of Minehead First School website).

The Pre School opens at 8:45, all children need to be in by 8:45am. The morning session ends at 11:45am.

Between 11:45am and 12:45pm children can stay for a lunch session as an add on to either the morning or afternoon session. Children can bring their own lunch or purchase a hot meal at £2:30.

Hours used in addition to a child's funded hours are charged at £7.25 for 2-3 year old and £5.50 for 3 years+.

Morning Session	Lunch Time	Afternoon Session
08:45-11:45 or 08:45-12:45	11:45-12:45	12:45 – 15:15

Parents/guardians can use their Early Years Entitlement (EYE) of 15 or 30 hours a week for their child at our setting if they are entitled to funding; additional hours can also be purchased.

3. Registration and Admissions

3.1 Application for a place in Minehead Pre School needs to be made by completing a registration form which is available from Minehead First School, or it can be downloaded from the school website. Parents/guardians will also need **to produce their child's original birth certificate, which will be photocopied to support the early years funding claim.**

3.2 No administration fee or deposit is payable to register for a place at Minehead Pre School.

4. Eligibility

4.1 Minehead Pre School welcomes children from 2 years of age.

4.2 If a child is in receipt of Two-Year Old Supportive Funding this needs to be in place before the child starts or sessions will be charged up front until funding is secured. We require written evidence of the funding being granted before your funded sessions can start

4.3 Two-Year Old Supportive funding is granted by Somerset Council – If a child is in receipt of Two-Year funding from a different local authority they will need to reapply for Somerset.

4.4 To be eligible for Two-Year Old Working Families Funding (15 hours) the child must have become 2 years old the term before they start Nursery. For example, if a child is 2 in February, he/she can claim funding from the 1st of April (note that Easter doesn't always divide the claiming periods) If you meet the eligibility criteria, please provide the 11-digit code or sessions will be charged up front until funding is secured.

4.5 To be eligible for Early Years Entitlement (15 hours per week) the child must have become 3 years old the term before they start Nursery. For example, if a child is 3 in February, he/she can claim funding from the 1st of April (note that Easter doesn't always divide the claiming periods).

4.6 To be eligible for 3-4 year old Working Families Funding (15 additional hours) we require the 11-digit code.

4.7 If you would like more information about Early Years Entitlement, please follow the link to: www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/early-years-and-childcare/early-years-entitlement-for-parents

You can contact the Entitlement Team:

01823 357039; or email:

Eyfundings@somerset.gov.uk

4.8 Parents are responsible for ensuring funding is in place and up to date.

4.9 Minehead Pre School is open to all children, irrespective of where they live.

4.10 This fees policy forms part of the contract with the parent/carer and Minehead Pre School.

Please note – The funding allowance is based on 38 weeks per year. Our setting is open 39 weeks per year so occasionally the funding does not cover the full year. In this case you will be contacted by the Nursery Finance Officer regarding options for any sessions over your funding allowance.

For further information on help with childcare costs, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

5. Lunches/snacks

6.1 We ask parents/carers to either provide their child with a packed lunch or order a cooked lunch, if their child attends over the lunch period. Hot lunches can be booked via MCAS at a cost of £2.30. Snacks will be provided by the Pre School.

6.2 Parent/carers are responsible for informing the Pre School if their child has any allergies.

6. Invoicing and Fees

6.1 Invoices will be sent half termly for sessions booked for the following half term. It is vital we hold the email address for the primary carer who elects to be responsible for the payment of the invoice and for other financial communications.

6.2 Statements will be sent out via email half termly if your account falls into arrears.

6.3 Fees must be paid within 7 days of the invoice date. Please see separate note in cancellation section with reference to final fees.

6.4 All fees are to be paid in advance of the sessions taking place

6.5 Children who attend sessions which are over and above their entitlement will be charged for those extra hours at an hourly rate. The breakdown of funded and chargeable hours will be clearly identifiable on the invoice.

6.6 Payments can be made by BACS into the following account:

6.6.1 Account Name: - BEACON EDUCATION NURSERIES ACCOUNT

6.6.2 Sort code: - 30 62 63

6.6.3 Account number: - 20805360

6.6.4 Please quote your child's name and "MFS"

6.7 Cash payments are not accepted

6.8 Payments are also accepted by Childcare voucher schemes. We encourage all families to explore the government's Tax-Free Childcare account. For every £8 you pay into this an online account, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year.

Eligibility criteria applies. For further information please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

If using this payment method, please provide nursery with your payment reference details.

6.9 Parents/carers who apply for funding to pay for their childcare fees. e.g. Learner Support funds, Care to Learn, etc. are expected to have this funding in place before their child starts at the nursery or provide the nursery manager with evidence of their entitlement.

6.10 Parents/carers who access their nursery education funding (Early Years Entitlement) will only be charged childcare fees if they use additional services, or if they fail to attend the contracted hours on a regular basis as outlined in the EYE contract.

6.11 Funded hours are shown on the invoices, which clearly show that hours, not monetary value, have been deducted in calculating the invoice total. If your booking is

completely covered by funding, and you don't pay for any extras, you will receive an information only invoice once per term, not a monthly invoice.

6.12 Full fees are charged if your child is absent due to illness or other reasons; funded hours will be claimed by Minehead Pre School on your behalf, and you will need to sign a Parent Declaration form to confirm the number of hours claimed at the setting.

6.13 Should your child be absent for more than 1 month due to sickness the Pre School-Manager should be made aware of this so that the situation can be discussed, and fees will be waived however we cannot guarantee that the child's place can be held open for them after that point. We will however endeavour to do our very best for the child and their family.

7. 12 Fees will not be charged when the nursery has INSET days or emergency closure. EYE hours lost due to nursery closure may be credited to the child to take at another time.

7. Additional and change of hours

7.1 Additional hours can be requested through the following email address mineheadpreschool@beaconedu.uk the EYFS Leader will endeavour to respond within 48 hours regarding availability. Sessions will be charged at £7.35 for 2-3 year olds and £5.50 for 3 years+.

7.2 Parents may request a change in hours with the Early Years Foundation Stage Leader. Other staff will be happy to accept the written request form, but decisions will be made by the EYFS Leader, who will endeavour to respond to the request within 5 working days of receipt of the request. The setting reserves the right to apply a 4-week notice period for change requests however we will endeavour to work with the family in each case.

7.3 All requests need to be made in writing using the 'Change of Hours' Form

7.4 Any ad-hoc additional hours over and above the agreed booking plan will be charged in the following month's invoice.

8. Cancellation of child's place

Four weeks written notice is required for the termination of the contract by a parent/carer. If the child starts at a new setting within the four weeks, the funded hours will be claimed until the end date of the notice period and any hours not covered by the entitlement will be charged to the parent/carer from both settings.

9. Charges for late collection of children

If a child is collected late from a session, we reserve the right to charge £5 late fee per 15-minute interval. We ask parents to be punctual at drop off and pick up and ask that if something happened you call the main school to inform us.

10. Monitoring payments in arrears

10.1 If a payment is more than 4 weeks overdue Minehead Pre School will take the necessary steps to recover the outstanding monies.

10.2 If at any time a parent/carer goes into arrears with their nursery fees the setting reserves the right to withdraw the place and invoice for the full amount owing.

11. Non-payment of fees

11.1 In the first instance it is important to ensure open communication between all parties.

11.2 Minehead Pre School will actively support the family whilst they have outstanding debt. However, it needs to be made clear that the nursery can neither afford nor tolerate debts for long periods.

11.3 The following steps will be implemented although seeking legal redress will remain the ultimate course of action:

- A payment plan may be arranged allowing the debt to be cleared in over a manageable period of time, this must be agreed between the Nursery Finance team and the parent / carer.
- If the parent/carer defaults on the payment the child's hours will reduce to EYE hours (if they are entitled) until the debt is cleared. If the debt is not cleared, then the place will be withdrawn. The parent/carer will be notified in writing.
- Minehead Pre School reserves the right to recover debt through the courts or debt recovery agency – should this be the case the parent/carer will be notified in writing.
- The setting will pass on information of debt arrears to any other Early Years provider who may make enquires about bad debts.

12. Termination of the contract by the setting

The setting reserves the right to terminate the contract for a child's place in the event of unsuitable behaviour from parents or non-payment of fees following the non-payment procedure, at all other times [settings notice period –i.e. 4 weeks] notice in writing will be given.

13. Informing parent/carers of changes to fees or policy

13.0 Fees are reviewed regularly. A minimum of 8 weeks' notice will be given for any changes.

13.1 Parents/Carers will be notified, in writing, two months before we are ready for implementation.

13.2 The new fee structure will be posted in the setting as well as through MCAS. We will also notify parents/carers of who to speak to should they wish to discuss fees. The policy will require a response to enable the Trust to track that parents have been made aware of the changes.

[Thank you for taking the time to read our Policy document.](#)

Please confirm you have read this policy and provide your signature overleaf...

Minehead Pre School Fees Policy – updated May 2024

Please sign and date the following statements and return this page to our office.

Childs name.....

Parent/Carer Name.....

Child’s start date.....

- I have read and agree to Minehead Pre School Policy
- I agree to pay any preschool fees by the payment due date shown on the invoice and in advance of sessions.
- I understand that if payment of the invoice is not made in full by the payment due date that my child will not be able to access extra sessions until the balance is cleared in full.
- I am aware that I am responsible to pay for any hours which cannot be claimed under the Early Years Entitlement.
- I am aware that my data will be held on both Bromcom and Beacon Education finance systems
- If my child dual places at multiple settings within Beacon Education, I agree that data can be shared between these settings.

Print Name.....

Signed..... Date.....

To Claim EYE funding for your child we need to send some details of your child and a copy of their birth certificate to Somerset Council. Also, if you wish to access the Working Families Funding hours, we will need to share your National Insurance number.

- I give Minehead Pre School preschool permission to share my child’s details, a copy of their birth certificate and my national insurance number with the Early Years Entitlements Team at Somerset Council.

Print Name.....

Signed..... Date