



Fazeley Pre-School **Registration and Charging**

How do I register for a place at Fazeley Pre-school?

A registration form must be completed and a fee of £35.00 is due once the place has formally been offered. The fee covers administrative costs as well as demonstrating commitment to using our Pre-school. As part of this fee, you will receive a pump bag and a Pre-school sweatshirt.

Can I visit Fazeley Pre-school before registering for a place?

Although we don't have 'open days' you are welcome to visit by appointment. Please contact the manager to arrange a visit. You can also find more information about our Pre-school on our website : www.fazeleypreschool.co.uk

Once you have been offered a place, we will arrange a visit for you and your child before they start with us.

When do children start at Fazeley Pre-school?

Although there are 3 terms during each school year, our biggest intake is at the start of the Autumn term in September. The majority of children, therefore, will be allocated a place at the beginning of the school year, in September. During the preceding February, parents on the waiting list will be contacted to confirm that they still want a place and to confirm what sessions they require. In April places are allocated and parents will then receive an offer.

Once parents accept the offer of the place they will be added to the list for September's cohort. If we do not receive acceptance of that offer, they will lose their place on the list.

Occasionally, places may become available during the following school year and be available to start in January or April, these places are very much subject to availability.

Children must be at least 2 ½ years old to be considered for a place. We have very limited places available for two-year-olds. Children are much more likely to be three when a place becomes available. This means that most children will be with us for the one full year before they go to school.

We require children to attend for at least 4 sessions per week. A session = 3 hours

How do we allocate places at Fazeley Pre-school ?

Places for each term will be allocated in the following order of priority

1. Child who already attends the setting
Priority given to older children and those requiring more days who already attend the setting
2. Children who live in the immediate Fazeley area
Priority is given to those children living in Fazeley town centre and surrounding estates
3. Oldest children on the list
Priority is given to the oldest children on the list. Our waiting list is in age order
4. Younger children on the list
2 ½ year olds – Due to the high adult/ child ratios required for under three's, the number of places available for 2 year olds is very limited. Therefore, most children have reached the age of 3 by the time they start at our Pre-school
5. Children outside our immediate catchment area
Once places have been allocated following the above criteria, places can be allocated to those living in other areas of Tamworth

Please note, we require children to attend for at least 2 full days or 4 half days per week. This is due to the fact that in order for children to get the most from the education that we offer, it is beneficial for them to attend for at least this many sessions.

FUNDING

Using government funding to help with fees

Fazeley Pre-school is registered with Staffordshire County Council to offer the Early Years Funding to 2, 3- and 4-year-olds and THINK2 funding

EEF funding

From the beginning of the term following a child's 3rd birthday, all children are entitled to 15 hours of Pre-school sessions per week for a total of 38 weeks per year. These are funded by the government and once your child becomes eligible we will ask you to complete the appropriate funding form.

For eligible 2 year olds we will ask for the funding code provided by HMRC.

THINK 2 Funding- The allocated code will be needed

See the table below for an example of the exact funding dates.

Child's 3rd birthday is between	Funding received from
1 st January and 31 st March	1 st April
1 st April and 31 st August	1 st September
1 st September and 31 st December	1 st January

30-hour funding

Some families may be entitled to the 30-hour funding which came into operation in September 2017. Again, criteria apply - see government website below if you think you may be eligible.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/30-hours-free-childcare-eligibility.

If you are eligible for 30-hour funding, please ensure that you have given us the code as soon as possible. If the 30-hour funding deadline is missed, fees would be charged. Please also remember to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months otherwise your code will expire.

As per government and SCC guidelines, Fazeley Pre-school charges for supplementary services that are beyond the standard Pre-school provision.

Government funding is intended to cover the cost to deliver 15 or 30 hours of free, high quality, flexible childcare. Free childcare doesn't necessarily mean 'free'. Since the introduction of the 30 hours funding, and more recently the 2 year old funding, settings such as ours are struggling financially and whilst we cannot 'charge' for extra services as a condition of taking up a place, we can now ask parents, as stated by The Department of Education Guidance, to pay an additional fee to help cover the cost of extras. We are finding that these extras, such as snacks, consumables, training, craft & art supplies, additional enrichment activities, learning journals, stationery and most importantly, us providing a higher ratio of staff than required by law - the list is endless, are not covered by the funding provided to us for 'basic childcare' from the Government.

We have also recently had a significant increase in our rent as well as rises in staff wages (increase in living wage 2 years running) which is a further expense to us and is not covered by the funding provided to us by the government.

Free is up to the point of delivery and only covers a core level of service.

At Fazeley Pre-school, we do not offer a basic core service, we consider ourselves to be providing an excellent service. Funding that we get from the government, which is one of the lowest in the country, does not actually cover the cost of providing a nursery place. With Living Wage, Pension & Rent increases, food and drink, consumables and the general running costs going up all the time, settings are now having to ask parents to pay a supplementary fee for additional services not covered by the Early Years Basic Core Funding.

Rather than run at a loss and going out of business we too have had to make the decision to charge for these additional services. Without these additional fees being charged we would have to close.

We believe that this will allow parents to continue to benefit financially from the 'free' hours, as well as allowing our Pre-school to cover the cost of actually delivering the sessions.

We have set the rate for 2024/25 cohort at £1.00 per hour which equates to 15 hours- £15.00 per week and 30 hours- £30.00 per week which I am sure you will agree is excellent value for money.

What do I do next?

15 Hour Funding - Fill in the attached application form and return it to Pre-school as soon as possible. Indicate what sessions you prefer and whether you want any extra fee payable sessions. Sign the declaration to say you have read the information regarding the additional services fee and agree to pay.

30 Hour Funding - If you think you may be eligible for 30-hour funding, you need to apply via the HMRC website. You can apply up to 12 weeks in advance. If successful, you will be given an eligibility code. Fill in the details on the application form along with your National Insurance number so we can verify the code.

Sign the declaration to say you have read the information regarding the additional services fee and agree to pay.

If you have any questions regarding funding or fees please do not hesitate to get in touch, preferably via email and I will get back to you as soon as I can.