



Review – July 2026

Next Review Date – Summer Term 2027

1. Introduction

During the school day, all activities that are a necessary part of the National Curriculum and religious education will be provided free of charge. This includes any materials, equipment, and transport to take pupils between the school and the activity. It also includes our school swimming and musical instrument tuition for individuals or groups.

This Policy should be read alongside our school's **Debt Recovery Policy and Procedures**.

2. Dinner Monies and Fees

Early Years Provision

2-3 Nursery - Free Childcare

You may qualify to receive **15 hours** free early education each week, for 38 weeks, if you meet certain criteria.

Children become eligible from the term after their second birthday.

For further information on eligibility and to apply: <https://liverpool.gov.uk/children-and-families/early-years-and-childcare/free-early-learning-2-year-olds/>

Expanded Childcare

If you do not meet the criteria above and are in work, you may qualify for the expanded childcare offer of **30 hours** of free childcare per week for two-year olds which is offered to working parents.

Eligible Working Parents

You can check full eligibility criteria here: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education/15-and-30-hours-support/working-families/>

Children become eligible from the term after their second birthday.

To apply for free childcare if you are working: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

3-4 Nursery - Universal Funding

All three and four-year old children are entitled to receive **15 hours** per week (for 38 weeks per year) of free childcare from the term after they turn three. This universal funding



applies to all families, no matter how much you earn.

Extended Funding

Three and four-year old children from working families can receive an **extra 15 hours** a week of free childcare, 30 hours in total.

Children become eligible from the term after their third birthday, until statutory school age.

For full eligibility criteria and to apply online: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education/15-and-30-hours-support/working-families/>

Additional Fees

If your child attends nursery for more hours than they are eligible for, you will be charged for the additional hours.

Funding for childcare is not intended to cover cost of nappies or additional activities, such as trips. School may charge a fee for these additions.

Dinner Monies

Universal Infant Free School Meals provides funding which allows schools to offer free school meals to children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 regardless of income.

Children in KS2 (from Year 3) and Nursery **will be** charged a set amount for dinners, unless they are entitled to free school meals.

There is **no charge** for children who are **entitled** to free school meals or Universal Infant Free School Meals.

Free School Meals

If you or your partner receive any of the following benefits you can apply for free school meals:

- Universal Credit – your household earned annual income must be less than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed part of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit – with no Working Tax Credit and your annual household income is not more than £16,190, as assessed by the Inland Revenue.



If your child is aged 3 or 4 and you receive a qualifying benefit, they may also be eligible for Free School Meals.

Children who have become eligible during the roll-out of Universal Credit from the 1st April 2018 will remain eligible regardless of any changes to you or your partner's income until the end of the 2025/26 school year. This applies whether you receive Universal Credit or legacy benefits.

After 31st July 2026, transitional protections will be discontinued. At this point, all households must meet the new eligibility criteria to be entitled to free school meals.

Starting from the 2026/27 school year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive free school meals.

For further information and to apply online: <https://liverpool.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals/>

Please note, if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and you receive a qualifying benefit, you can still apply for FSM so that the school receives extra funding (Pupil Premium). This can be used to help with the costs of school trips, activities etc.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts from 7.30am for children in EYFS and Years 1-6. For those wishing to access wraparound childcare before our Free Breakfast Club there will be a set charge.

There **will be** an additional charge if you do not book a place for Breakfast Club prior to your child's attendance.

Free Breakfast Club

From September 2026, The Beacon CE Primary School will be running one of the Government's Free 'Best Start' Breakfast Clubs. This Breakfast Club will run from 8.20am until the start of the school day, however, the existing chargeable Breakfast Club provision remains available for families who require earlier wrap around childcare before the Free Breakfast Club.

Although Nursery children are not eligible for the Government funded Free Breakfast Club, they will still be able to access wraparound care through our Breakfast Club from 7.30am; however, this provision will remain fully chargeable.

After School Club

After School Club is available until 6pm Monday – Thursday and 5.30pm on a Friday. There is a fee for those wishing to access wraparound care. There is a reduced rate for those wishing to pick up their children before 4.30pm.



There **will be** an additional charge if you do not book a place for Afterschool Club prior to your child's attendance.

3. Voluntary contributions from Parents/Carers

Voluntary contributions may be sought for activities during the school day which entail additional costs, for example:

- Visits to museums
- Theatre groups
- School trips
- Musical events
- Sporting activities which require transport expenses
- Outdoor adventure activities

Without sufficient voluntary contributions, a trip may be cancelled. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

Sometimes the school pays some of the costs in order to support the visit. Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.

4. Optional activities outside of the school day

Parents may be asked to pay the costs of optional activities which take place outside the school day, e.g. after school, evening sporting or musical events or Breakfast and After School Clubs.

5. Residential visits

Special rules apply for residential activities. All families can be charged for the total cost of trips which take place mainly outside the school day e.g. Friday to Sunday.

Some families (generally those eligible to pay for school meals) can be charged for the board and lodging part of trips which take place mainly in school time e.g. Wednesday to Friday. Other children may be eligible for a remission of the cost.

The governors have agreed that residential trips will be **subsidised for all pupils** from the school budget, grants, and general fundraising. This will enable school to ask parents for a reduced contribution to fund the trip dependent on their circumstances. (See Remissions Statement below).

Without sufficient contributions a trip may be cancelled. If a trip goes ahead, it may include children whose parents have not paid any contribution. We do not treat these children differently from any others.

Parents have a right to know how each trip is funded. The school provides this information on request.



6. Lettings

The Governing Body will consider any written applications for community use of the premises. Charges may be made for the use of the building or facilities.

7. Remissions and Concessions

Parents who are eligible for the remission of charges will be dealt with confidentially.

Children of families who are in receipt of Free School Meals, will be entitled to 50% reduction of the cost of any residential trip.

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors will authorise the remission of charges.

8. Damage to Property and Breakages

Where school property has been wilfully or recklessly damaged by a student or parent the school may charge those responsible for some or all the cost of repair or replacement.

Where property belonging to a third party has been damaged by a pupil, and the school has been charged, the school may charge some or all the cost to those responsible.

Whether or not these charges will be made will be decided by the Headteacher and will be dependent on the situation.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

A standard planning proforma will be completed for all activities paid for by grants, general fund raising and parental contributions. These will be filed in the school office and monitored at least annually by school governors to assess the impact of this policy.

10. Review

The governors will review this policy annually.