Finance Policy
Appendix C – Ambleside Centre Charging Policy

All funded sessions follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and are at no cost to the parents.

Funded sessions are available in both nurseries, as described on page 16.

Some parents may be eligible for an additional 15 hours (making 30 hours per week term time only, or max 23 hours per week stretched across 48 weeks) of government funded education per week.

Sessions, over and above the 15 or 30 hours, may be purchased by parents. Please refer to application forms and rules of application.

Parents/carers may occasionally be asked for a contribution towards certain events e.g. visiting theatre company, activity day. No child will be prevented from participation due to non-payment. However certain events may have to be cancelled if sufficient parents do not contribute.

Deposits are charged and held for all families using paid for sessions in both nurseries. This deposit is approximately equivalent to four weeks fees, and will be refunded to parents once the child leaves, subject to there being no outstanding session charges.

The Finance and Staffing Committee are responsible for setting charges, which are reviewed annually, with any changes occurring in April.

Allocation of Funded sessions:

Meadows

Universal funding for 3 and 4 year olds-

- 15 hours funding to be accessed across a minimum of three days a week.

Working family 30 hours funding-

- Can be accessed either:
  Up to 30 hours each week term time only or up to 23 hours each week 48 weeks a year.

- All sessions in Meadows during school holiday periods are chargeable to parents, unless they have contracted to take a stretched offer.

Both 15 hours and 30 hours funding must be available to parents and carers without a cost incurred, therefore:

- No top up or additional charge is made for any funded session
- Charges are made for meals- parents/carers can opt out of these charges and provide meals instead.

- There are many variations of booking patterns available to parents including a number of 15/30 hours' non-payment options

Pastures

Working family 30 hours funding- Available from term after child turns 9 months.

- Can be accessed either:
  Up to 30 hours each week term time only or up to 23 hours each week 48 weeks a year.

- All sessions in Pastures during school holiday periods are chargeable to parents, unless they have contracted to take a stretched offer.
- Hours are taken in 5 hours block- therefore a 23 hour stretched offer involves a payment of two hours weekly.

30 hours funding must be available to parents and carers without a cost incurred, therefore:

- No top up or additional charge is made for any funded session.

- Charges are made for meals/snacks- parents/carers can opt out of these charges and provide meals/snacks instead.

- There are many variations of booking patterns available to parents/carers: 30 hours' non-payment option can currently be accessed (when a term time only option is chosen with an opt out of snacks/meals)
  3 x full 10-hour days
  2 full days and two half days