

ST THOMAS MORE MONTESSORI

Opting-out of the Integrated Montessori Package

The aim of this information sheet

We provide government funded childcare as part of the [Best Start in Life](#). This funding entitles your child to attend a childcare provider and access the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum.

During your visit, you will have seen many opportunities and activities that are offered to our children which are not included in the EYFS. We ask parents to make an additional payment each day for these extras. This payment is payable by all non-funded children and is optional for those attending funded places.

Government legislation requires that childcare providers offer parents the choice to opt-out of paying additional fees when they are using funding. If you choose to opt-out, it means that your child will be entitled to childcare and the basic EYFS curriculum ONLY.

The aim of this information sheet is to explain what our voluntary additional charges are and what opting-out means.

What is my child entitled to as part of their funded government entitlement?

Funding for childcare is offered by the government so that all eligible children can access the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum free of charge. The EYFS curriculum includes:

- communication and language
- personal, social and emotional development
- physical development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

Why do you have extra charges?

As you will have seen during your visit, we offer much more than the basic EYFS curriculum and our Integrated Montessori Package (IMP) fee is for everything else that makes our setting the special place it is.

Things included as part of our IMP are: Meals; Access to our online sharing platform; Consumables such as nappies, wipes and suncream; Enrichment opportunities such as STEM activities; Looking after pets; Forest School; Real world activities such as cooking and gardening; Trips and visits; Celebrating special events and much more besides. These extras are threaded through everything that we do and would not be possible without our families opting-in to this charge.

How much is the IMP fee?

The IMP fee is £12.50 per day. This is payable by all children who are not funded and is a voluntary additional cost for those who are attending a funded place.

Hours that a child attends beyond any funding entitlement are charged at £9.20 per hour.

Fees are calculated annually and payable in 12 equal monthly instalments.

What if I can't afford the IMP fee?

For a two-day term-time only place, the IMP fee is £79.17 per month, but there is support available:

- If you are a working parent, you may be able to pay using Tax-Free Childcare which would save you 20% off this cost.
- If you receive Universal Credit, you may be able to claim back up to 85% of the cost of your fees.

We recommend that you visit the websites below for further advice about the support available:

- <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/get-support/information-for-your-situation/help-with-childcare-costs/help-with-childcare-costs-when-you-are-working>

If, after you have explored the options above, you would still prefer to opt-out of the IMP we will offer your child a *no-frills* place and will discuss what arrangements we can make for your child whilst they are in our care.

What happens if I opt-out of the IMP charge?

If you opt-out of the IMP charge, your child will be offered a *no-frills* place. This means that they will still have full access to the Early Years Foundation Scheme provision and all that is required by us to deliver this, but that they will not be entitled to any of the extras that we offer beyond the EYFS.

We are an inclusive setting and aim to offer an equitable experience to all those who attend regardless of their background or financial circumstances. Our IMP sets us apart from other settings that you may have visited but it relies on parents paying the associated charge. Whilst those attending *no-frills* places are still included in the enriched learning experiences as far as possible, there are certain limits and exclusions:

What are the main exclusions?

Meals

You will need to provide all meals for your child and ensure that these comply with our Healthy Eating & Nutrition Policy and our Packed Lunch policy.

Our online information sharing platform

You will not have online access to observations made of your child or photos taken by our team. You will not be able to receive or respond to messages via this platform.

Specialist clothing and equipment

You will need to provide all extra equipment required for any activities that you opt into, such as waterproof trousers, gardening gloves, high-viz clothing.

Specialist activities and seasonal crafts

Your child may not always be included in these activities as priority for resources will be given to those who pay the charge.

Forest School

Our Forest School sessions are run in small groups and your child will not be able to participate.

Extra sessions

Your child will not be able to attend any sessions beyond their funded hours and would not be able to attend adhoc sessions during the holidays if these were to be offered. You may be offered a reduced choice of sessions.

School trips

Your child will not be able to attend the school trip and may not be able to join with other visits as priority will be given to those who have paid the charge.

What you will need to provide

You will be asked to provide certain items that are usually included in our IMP. All items must be clearly labelled and renewed before they run out/ expire. These are as follows:

Annually and to be replaced when outgrown/ worn out

- High-viz vest
- Waterproof trousers
- Gardening gloves

Termly with a spare that should be replenished when needed

- Suncream
- Wipes
- Nappies/ nappy cream (if applicable)
- Calpol/ Piriton/ other medicines
- Hand sanitiser
- Tissues

Daily

- Packed lunch and tea. You will need to refer to our Healthy Eating & Nutrition Policy and our Packed Lunch Policy

What if I wish to opt-in to certain parts of the package?

You can of course choose to opt-in to any aspect of our IMP and we would be glad to discuss costs with you and provide you with our list of optional daily fees and mini-packages.

Please contact Sarah at the Montessori Main Office to arrange a meeting to discuss your needs:

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