

Little Leopards Nursery

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The Dixie Grammar School

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Welcome to our Nursery Fee & Funding Guide

Welcome to the Little Leopards Nursery. We are delighted you are considering us for your child's early years journey. This guide is designed to provide total transparency regarding our fees and the government funding models we support.

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The Dixie Grammar School is the trading name of Leicestershire Independent Educational Trust, a company limited by guarantee (No 01751466) and a registered charity (No 514407) in England and Wales.

Little Leopards Nursery - Fees List

Joining Our Nursery

Registration Fee - £150

To begin your journey with us, a non-refundable registration fee is required. This covers the administrative costs of processing your application and places your child on our joiner list.

Acceptance Deposit - £150

Once a place is offered, this deposit secures your child's spot in the nursery.

- Investing in the Future: For children transitioning to Reception, this amount is conveniently deducted from the School's Acceptance Deposit when your child transitions to Reception.
- Peace of Mind: This deposit is fully refundable after your child completes their time with us, in accordance with the Terms and Conditions.
- Please Note: To ensure fair placement for all families, this deposit is retained by the nursery should your child not take up their confirmed place.

Admissions & Priority of Places

In line with our Nursery Admissions Policy, places are subject to availability and the following priority criteria:

- Current Pupils: Children currently attending who are increasing their sessions.
- Siblings: Children who have siblings already attending the nursery or the school.
- Efficiency & Fit: The Nursery reserves the right to prioritise applications for full-time places (5 days per week) or those that naturally "fit" existing vacancies to ensure the most efficient use of our available capacity.

Standard Fees

Our standard fees excluding any applicable funding are:

Room	Age Group	Full Day (7:30am – 6:00pm)	Minimum Booking
The Nest	0-2 Years	£86.50	2 Days
The Den	2-3 Years	£86.50	2 Days
The Cubs	3-4 Years	£86.50	3 Days

Full Week Discount

For children attending a full 5-day week (Monday to Friday), a discount of £10.50 is applied to the fifth day.

Early Years Funding & Meals

For children receiving Early Years Funding, a Meals & Consumables fee of £10.50 applies per day to cover our fresh catering and snacks. For all 'non-funded' days, these costs are fully included in your standard daily rate.



A Parent's Guide to Early Years Funding

Navigating government funding can be complex. At Little Leopards Nursery, our goal is to make your nursery experience as straightforward and transparent as possible. We have designed this guide to help you understand your entitlements and how they are applied to your monthly invoice.

1. When does my funding start?

The government applies the "Term After" rule. Eligibility begins at the start of the term following your child's qualifying birthday or milestone.

Birthday/Milestone Falls Between	Funding Starts From
1st September - 31st December	1st January (Spring Term)
1st January - 31st March	1st April (Summer Term)
1st April - 31st August	1st September (Autumn Term)

2. What is my child entitled to?

- 9 Months to 3 Years: "Working Parents" are eligible for up to 30 hours of funding.
- 3 & 4 Year Olds (Universal): All children are entitled to 15 hours of funding, regardless of circumstances.
- 3 & 4 Year Olds (Extended): "Working Parents" are eligible for an additional 15 hours of funding, on top of the 15 hours of Universal funding to provide a total of 30 hours of funding.

3. Am I an eligible "Working Parent"?

To qualify for the 30-hour entitlement, parents must usually meet the following criteria:

- Earnings: Each parent must expect to earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the National Living Wage (approx. £183/week).
- Income Cap: Each parent must have an individual "Adjusted Net Income" of less than £100,000 per year. This is generally your total taxable income after deductions for pension contributions and Gift Aid donations.

Leave & Support: You may still qualify if you are on Maternity/Paternity leave, Statutory Sick Pay, or if one partner has specific caring responsibilities.

Universal Entitlement: The 15 hours for 3 & 4-year-olds is a universal offer. You do not need to meet any work or income criteria to receive this portion of the funding.

4. How does the "Stretched" Funding Model work?

To provide consistent monthly billing and year-round care, we "stretch" the 38-week government allocation across the 51 weeks we are open.

- 30-Hour Offer (Stretched): Provides 22.35 funded hours per week.
- 15-Hour Offer (Stretched): Provides 11.17 funded hours per week.

How Hours are Allocated:

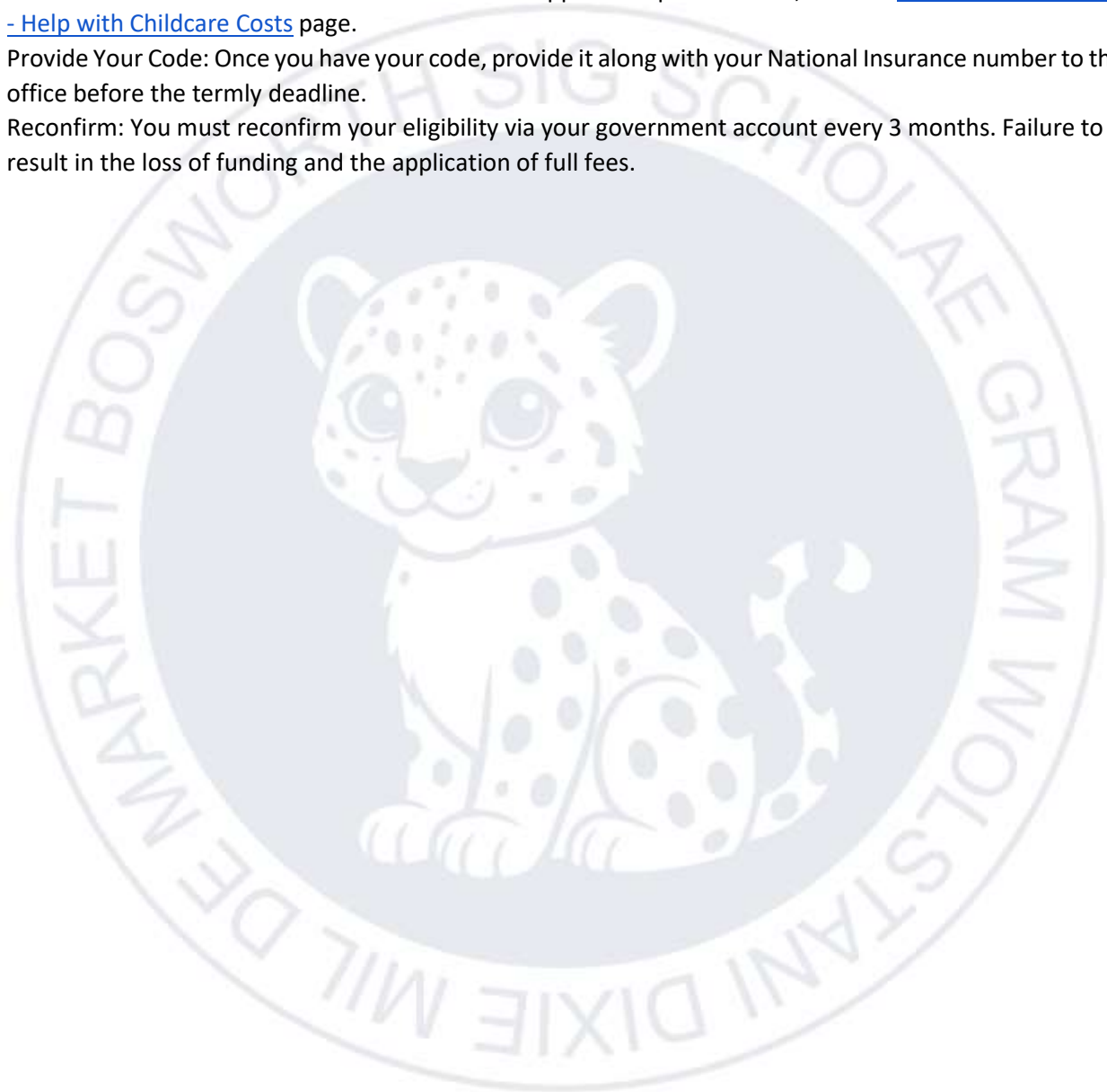
- The Nest & The Den: The 30-hour stretched offer is applied across 3 days of attendance. For children attending the minimum 2 days, the funding will be applied pro rata.



- The Cubs: The 30-hour stretched offer is applied across your child's full schedule (3, 4, or 5 days).
- The Cubs: The 15-hour stretched offer is applied across 3 days of attendance.

Recommended Next Steps for Families

1. Check Eligibility: Visit childcarechoices.gov.uk to confirm your entitlement and apply for your 11-digit code.
2. Local Guidance: For further information on local support and provider lists, visit the [Leicestershire County Council - Help with Childcare Costs](#) page.
3. Provide Your Code: Once you have your code, provide it along with your National Insurance number to the nursery office before the termly deadline.
4. Reconfirm: You must reconfirm your eligibility via your government account every 3 months. Failure to do so will result in the loss of funding and the application of full fees.



Fees Inclusive of Funding - Illustrative Examples

The following tables demonstrate how Early Years Funding is applied to our daily rates using our "Stretched" model. Examples in this guide are for illustrative purposes only. Final invoices are bespoke and will vary based on:

- Eligibility Dates: Funding only commences the term after a child's qualifying birthday.
- The Funding Stretch: Calculations may vary depending on the specific start date within the academic year.
- Attendance Patterns: Your specific days and any additional sessions booked.

1. The Nest & The Den – 30 Hour Stretched Offer (22.35 hours per week)

Ages 9 Months to 3 Years. Funding is applied across Days 1, 2, and 3 of your child's weekly attendance (Minimum 2 days).

Days Attended	Funded Hours	Parent Hours @ £8.24 p/h	Meals & Consumables Fee	Daily Total
Day 1	7.45 hrs (£0)	3.05 hrs (£25.13)	£10.50	£35.63
Day 2	7.45 hrs (£0)	3.05 hrs (£25.13)	£10.50	£35.63
Day 3	7.45 hrs (£0)	3.05 hrs (£25.13)	£10.50	£35.63
Day 4	0.00 hrs	Full Private Day Rate	Included	£86.50
Day 5	0.00 hrs	Full Private Day Rate	Included	£76.00*

* Day 5 Rate: Reflects our Full Week Discount of £10.50 applied to families attending Monday to Friday.

2. The Cubs - 30 Hour Stretched Offer (22.35 hours per week)

Ages 3 - 4 Years. Funding is spread across your chosen weekly attendance (Minimum 3 days).

Attendance Pattern	Funded Hours	Parent Hours @ £11 p/h **	Meals & Consumables Fee	Average Daily Total
3 day week	7.45 hrs (£0)	3.05 hrs (£33.55)	£10.50	£44.05
4 day week	5.59 hrs (£0)	4.91 hrs (£54.01)	£10.50	£64.51
5 day week	4.47 hrs (£0)	6.03 hrs (£66.33)	£10.50	£74.73*

The average daily total is charged per day and multiplied by the number of days attended, e.g., £44.05 x 3, £64.51 x 4 or £74.73 x 5.

* The 5 Day Average Rate of £74.73 reflects our Full Week Discount of £10.50, applied to families attending Monday to Friday, split across the 5-day week at £2.10 per day to give the daily average.

** The £11.00 hourly rate for The Cubs reflects our enhanced Pre-school curriculum (led by qualified Early Years Teachers) and the reduced government funding rate for this age group. Crucially, the daily cost to parents remains capped at £86.50, ensuring our enhanced educational standards remain accessible.



3. The Cubs - 15 Hour Stretched Offer (11.18 hours per week)

Ages 3 - 4 Years. Funding is applied across Days 1, 2, and 3 of your child's weekly attendance (Minimum 3 days).

Days Attended	Funded Hours	Parent Hours @ £11 p/h **	Meals & Consumables Fee	Daily Total
Day 1	3.72 hrs (£0)	6.78 hrs (£74.58)	£10.50	£85.08
Day 2	3.72 hrs (£0)	6.78 hrs (£74.58)	£10.50	£85.08
Day 3	3.72 hrs (£0)	6.78 hrs (£74.58)	£10.50	£85.08
Day 4	0.00 hrs	Full Private Day Rate	Included	£86.50
Day 5	0.00 hrs	Full Private Day Rate	Included	£76.00*

* Day 5 Rate: Reflects our Full Week Discount of £10.50 applied to families attending Monday to Friday.

** The £11.00 hourly rate for The Cubs reflects our enhanced Pre-school curriculum (led by qualified Early Years Teachers) and the reduced government funding rate for this age group. Crucially, the daily cost to parents remains capped at £86.50, ensuring our enhanced educational standards remain accessible.



Important Information

Invoicing and Payment of Fees

Monthly Invoices: Fees are invoiced monthly in advance.

Payment Terms: Fees are due on or before the first day of each month. Interest and late charges may be applied to any debt not settled within this time, as stipulated in our Terms and Conditions.

Fee Reviews: Our fees are subject to an annual review, with increases implemented in April each year (communicated to parents in February). Any adjustments are made to ensure we can continue to provide high-quality care while meeting external economic factors, including mandatory increases to the National Living Wage and the headline rate of inflation.

Transitions: Invoices are adjusted the term after a qualifying birthday or when a child moves rooms to reflect new funding brackets or age-group hourly rates.

Term Time Only Placements (The Cubs): We offer a strictly limited number of term-time-only spaces for children in The Cubs. The funding available for these spaces is the 15-hour Universal entitlement only. Regrettably, we do not offer the 30-hour funding entitlement on a term-time-only basis, nor is a term-time option available for children in The Nest or The Den. Please contact the Nursery Management team for current availability and pricing.

Notice Periods: We require a minimum of one full clear calendar month's notice, in writing, for any permanent reduction in sessions or the withdrawal of a child from the nursery. For example: If notice is given on 14th March, the notice period will run until 30th April.

Sibling Policy & Reception Incentive

Please note that we do not offer a standard sibling discount on nursery fees. Instead, as an incentive to transition into the School, a 5% discount is applied to the Reception year fees only, if the following eligibility criteria are met:

- The child has attended the nursery for a minimum of 24 months immediately prior to entering Reception.
- An elder sibling attends the School during the same period that the younger child is enrolled in the nursery.
- The elder sibling remains on roll at the School during the younger child's Reception year.

This incentive will be applied in addition to the standard sibling discount offered by the School at that time.

Payment Methods

Direct Bank Transfer: Please state your billing reference number when making payments.

Tax-Free Childcare: We strongly encourage families to utilise [the Government Tax-Free Childcare scheme](#).

- How it works: For every £8 you pay into your online account, the government adds £2. This provides up to £2,000 of support per child per year.
- Eligibility: In general terms, the eligibility criteria mirror the "Working Parent" definition used for the 30-hour funding. If you earn at least 16 hours at National Living Wage and less than £100,000 Adjusted Net Income, you should qualify.
- The Result: Using this scheme effectively provides a **20% saving** on your monthly nursery invoice.



Opening Hours & Holiday Closures

We are open 51 weeks per year, from 7:30am to 6:00pm (10.5 hours per day), Monday to Friday.

Christmas Closure: Our standard policy is to close at 6:00pm on 23rd December and reopen at 7:30am on 2nd January.

There is no charge for the period the nursery is closed over Christmas. This includes Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and the intervening working days.

The specific closure dates for 2026/27, due to the fall of weekends, are:

- Closing: 6:00pm on Wednesday 23rd December 2026.
- Reopening: 7:30am on Monday 4th January 2027.

Other Closures: Bank Holidays & Staff Training

The nursery is closed on all other UK Bank Holidays and for one annual Staff Training Day (typically a Friday in late August or early September). The specific date for the Staff Training Day will be communicated to families alongside the annual fee review in February each year. Please note: there is no staff training closure in 2026 due to the initial launch of the nursery.

While these closures are charged at the usual daily rate, the Nursery provides a discretionary "Closure Swap." If a Bank Holiday or Training Day falls on your child's regularly scheduled day, you may request to swap that session for an alternative date within six months. Swaps are strictly subject to availability, must be agreed at least 14 days in advance, and cannot be "rolled over" or used to reduce future invoices.

Sessions missed due to a child's personal absence, such as family holidays or sickness, remain payable in full and are not eligible for a fee reduction, refund, or session swap.

