**Little Whits Nursery Funding Policy**

At Little Whits Nursery, we offer government-funded early education for children aged 9 months, 2 years, and 3–4 years. The funding allows for up to 570 hours of high-quality education per year for children aged 9 months and 2 years. For children aged 3 and 4 years, the funding may be extended to 570 hours or up to 1140 hours per year, depending on household income.

**Changes to Funding (Effective September 2025)**
Starting in September 2025, the government funding for 9-month and 2-year-old children will increase to 1140 hours per year, subject to household income eligibility.

**Funded Hours Coverage**
Please note that the funded hours are provided exclusively to cover the education of your child. The funding does not extend to cover additional services such as food, nappies, wipes, or other consumables provided by the nursery.

**Free Education Hours and Additional Charges**
The government requires that funded hours are delivered at no cost to parents at the point of entry. If parents wish to access a completely free placement, the funded hours must be used between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm, Monday to Thursday, during term time only. Availability of these hours is limited, and once the allocation is full, parents will be placed on a waiting list.

For the free placement, parents are required to provide:

* A piece of fruit for snack
* Nappies, wipes, and nappy sacks

**Flexible Funding Options**
We offer flexibility in the use of funded hours. Parents may choose between term-time-only care or 50 weeks of the year. Please be advised that additional fees will apply to cover the cost of food, consumables, and external services.

The following flexible session options are available:

* 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
* 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
* 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

**Additional Services Included**
As part of the flexible funded offer, your child will have access to:

* Tapestry (online learning journal)
* Food and formula milk (for children under 1 year old)
* Nappies and wipes
* Weekly music lessons from an external music teacher
* Weekly cooking sessions
* Christmas, Easter, and Summer parties
* Birthday presents and Christmas presents
* Home learning packs

**Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)**
Children who are eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) will automatically receive a free placement. These children will also have the flexibility to use their funded hours as needed.