

Parents/carers of children receiving extended day-care in early years and children's centres, nursery schools, primary schools (where applicable) and community nurseries

11 June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Day-care and meal charges for 20-21 academic year

I am writing to inform you of the increase to day-care charges for 20-21 as of Monday 31 August 2020. This is the final year of a four-year plan in the day-care charge increases, which started in September 2017.

Charges will increase as follows:

- Band 1 to 7 increases by 3%
- Band 8 to 10 increases by 4%
- Band 11 increases by 5%
- Out of borough and marketed rate increases by 5%

Background to the increases:

The council held a public consultation in June 2017 on changes to the charging policy for children under five. It was agreed to:

- Increase the number of income bands so that charges are more sensitive to family income
- Increase charges, particularly for higher income families, so that they better reflect the actual cost of providing places
- Target the council's subsidy to low and middle income families through a lower percentage increase in charges for these families
- Introduce a new rate for families on very high incomes or who do not live in the borough
- Give parents who were already in the system more time to plan for the impact on family budgets by phasing in the changes
- Review the charges after the second year's increase

Children who were already in the system before, up to and including 31st August 2017 remained on the old charges with a 2% annual inflation increase, until the term after their third birthday when they became eligible for government-funded hours.

At the beginning of 2019 we reviewed the increases which were agreed in 2017 and reduced the rate of increase for families in income bands 7 – 11, and out of borough/marketed places.

All children who are three before September 2019 and any new starters as of 1 September 2017, in any age group are charged on the new schedules.

Previous Year Increases - September 2019

- Band 1 to 7 increases by 3%
- Band 8 to 10 increases by 4%
- Band 11 increases by 5%
- Out of borough and marketed rate increases by 5%

Previous Year Increases - September 2018

- and 1 to 6 increases by 3%
- Band 7 increases by 5%
- Band 8 increases by 6%
- Band 9 increases by 9%
- Band 10 increases by 10%
- Band 11 increases by 12%
- Out of borough and marketed rate increases by 15%

Meal charges:

Term-time meal charges are included parents' fees for children under three. As from April 2020, the council has waived the cost of meals for children over three during term-time to bring children's centre and council-run nurseries in line with nursery and primary school nurseries. There will therefore no longer be any additional charge made for meals for children attending provision for term-time weeks. However, meal charges will continue to be charged, where applicable, during holiday periods but will remain at £2.00 per day.

The charging policy and the associated charging schedule can be read in full on the Islington website: <https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-education/paying-for-childcare>

We appreciate that any increase in charges is generally unwelcome. However, the council continues to subsidise about 1,500 places for children under five in nurseries across the borough despite a 70% cut in its budget since 2010. It needs to ensure best use of its resources and advises all families to ensure they receive any additional benefits from central government such as tax free childcare and 30 hours for 3 and 4 year olds of working parents. If you need advice on what you might be entitled to, please contact the Family Information Service (020 7527 5959 or fis@islington.gov.uk)

If you have any other queries, please speak to your nursery.

Yours sincerely,



Penny Kenway
Head of Early Years and Childcare