



SAINT NORBERT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Mission Statement: To live, love and learn in the footprints of Jesus.

6th October 2026

Dear Families,

New Nursery Hours from January 2027

I am writing to let you know about an important change to our Nursery arrangements which will take effect from January 2027. I appreciate that any change to childcare arrangements can be inconvenient for families and so I wanted to give you as much notice as possible and explain clearly why this change is necessary.

As you will be aware, eligible children are entitled to either 15 or 30 hours of funded childcare each week. At St Norbert's, our current Nursery timetable means that children taking up their full 15-hour entitlement are actually able to attend for 16 hours each week, while children taking up their full 30-hour entitlement can attend for 32.5 hours.

Until now, we have not charged families for these additional, unfunded hours. We made this decision because we wanted to support our families, particularly working parents, and avoid creating unnecessary barriers to children accessing our Nursery.

However, in line with Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust policy, all Nursery provision across the Trust must now be organised so that a child either attends for the number of hours covered by their funded entitlement or parents pay for any additional hours they choose to use.

We have therefore reviewed our Nursery arrangements carefully. In doing so, we have been very mindful of the impact upon our families and have sought to keep any additional cost as low as reasonably possible. From January 2027, additional Nursery hours at St Norbert's will be charged at £5 per hour. This rate reflects the cost of Nursery provision within our local area and has deliberately been set below the rate outlined within the Trust policy so that our Nursery remains affordable and competitive locally.

From January, the following funded options will therefore be available:

15 hours per week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
8.30am until 3pm	8.30am until 3pm	8.30am until 10.30 am

Or

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1pm until 3pm	8.30am until 3pm	8.30am until 3pm

30 hours per week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.30am until 3pm	8.30am until 3pm	8.30am until 3pm	8.30am until 3pm	8.30am until 12.30pm

Families may, of course, choose to retain arrangements which more closely match our current Nursery day. Where you choose to use hours beyond your child's funded entitlement, these will be charged at £5 per hour.

For a child using 15 funded hours, extending the Wednesday session to match our current arrangements will therefore cost £5 per week.

For a child using 30 funded hours, remaining at Nursery until 3.00pm on Friday will cost £12.50 per week.

These additional hours will need to be booked and paid for in advance for the term ahead.

Parents whose child is entitled to 15 funded hours and who wish to purchase further Nursery sessions will also be charged at the same rate of £5 per hour, with payment continuing to be made in advance.

Families who are entitled to 30 funded hours but do not currently use their full entitlement may not be affected by these changes, provided that the remaining funded entitlement is available for us to claim. Where funded hours are shared with another childcare provider or childminder, we will need to consider the individual arrangement with you.

I fully appreciate that some families may need to reconsider their childcare arrangements as a result of this change. We have tried very hard to strike the right balance: meeting the requirements of our Trust while continuing to provide flexible Nursery provision at a rate which compares favourably with other local settings.

We will contact Nursery families again next week to ask you to confirm your preferred arrangements from January. All families will also need to complete a new Parent Agreement Funding Form so that funded and, where applicable, additional paid hours are clearly agreed.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss how these arrangements will affect your child, please do speak to me or contact our school office. We will, as always, do our best to help families work through the options available.

Yours sincerely,



A Dawson