



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 7th July 2023

Changes to Wraparound Care

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to provide you with an update regarding the wraparound care services offered by Downton Primary School. Firstly, we want to express our appreciation for your understanding and patience in securing wraparound care spaces for your children.

Our wraparound care program is registered for a maximum capacity of 25 pupils per session for after school club and 30 pupils per session for breakfast club. This limit ensures that we can maintain a manageable group size and provide adequate attention and care to each child. While we understand that this may create challenges in securing a session for your child, we are committed to ensuring fairness and equal access to our wraparound care services for all families.

We totally understand the challenges in finding available spaces and empathise with the difficulties you may have experienced, but also how much wraparound care plays a crucial role in supporting so many of our families with busy work schedules and other commitments. Be assured, we strive to accommodate as many children as possible within our wraparound care program while ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for all.

Since moving to School Gateway, we have offered the option to make payments throughout the term, providing flexibility for families. However, after careful consideration and evaluation of our program, we have decided to return to the previous policy of requiring payment in advance of the term starting. This decision has not been made lightly, and we understand that it may require some adjustments. This change is necessary to better accommodate the growing demand for our wraparound care services. By transitioning back to payment in advance, in doing so we can effectively manage resources, allocate staff accordingly, but most importantly enable fair access for all families who need to access to this provision.

Payments for bookings made will now need to be received in full and cleared with the school by the end of the first week of each term. Please note that if payment is being made using childcare vouchers, this needs to have cleared with the school, and these can take 3-5 days. Any bookings failing to receive payment within these timescales will regrettably be cancelled to enable other families access to the available sessions.

As spaces are limited, the option to cancel sessions will be removed from School Gateway. Parents should notify the office if a child will not be attending a session of breakfast or after-school club so that we can offer the space to another family. Refunds will no longer be given for cancelled sessions, regardless of notice, unless your child is unwell. As a school, we will regularly monitor availability, so that parents without spaces can contact the office should they require a space.



Unfortunately, while we have carefully managed costs over the years, we have recently had to review our operating costs in the current climate, and we now find it necessary to make some modest adjustments to ensure the sustainability and level of service you have come to expect. Therefore, effective from September 2023, we will be implementing the following changes to our wraparound care fees:

- **Breakfast Club: New Fee: £6.00 per session**
- **After-School Club Session until 4:30pm: New Fee: £6.00 per session**
- **After-School Club Session until 6:00pm: New Fee: £11.00 per session**

We understand that any adjustment in fees may have an impact on your family budget, and we want to assure you that we have carefully considered these changes, to cover our costs. We have ensured that they are fair and reflective of the costs associated with maintaining and improving our wraparound care program, while also remaining in line with other local schools and their fees.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to address any queries you may have and provide support as needed. It may be worth noting that you may be eligible for tax-free childcare - <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare> - so it would be worth taking a look at the government website. Also, as a school, we do accept childcare vouchers if that is something that your employer is able to facilitate.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in our wraparound care program.

Yours sincerely,



Paula Carlton
Headteacher

