

Innsworth Preschool Meals and Enhancements Policy

Last Updated: 1st January 2026

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 Overview: This policy outlines the two optional service packages offered by Innsworth Preschool: "Meals" (The Full Nourishment Plan) and "Enhancements" (The Farm School Experience).

1.2 Objective: These packages are designed to provide convenience for parents and a resource-rich environment for children. Our goal is transparency: we want you to make an informed choice about the premium value we offer versus the statutory funded entitlement.

1.3 Scope: This policy details the benefits of these services and the strict safety and operational responsibilities placed on parents who choose to **opt out** (provide their own alternatives) during government-funded hours.

2. Statutory Framework

2.1 Compliance: This policy is underpinned by:

- The Statutory Framework for the EYFS: Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements.
- DfE Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance: Confirming that providers may charge for meals and consumables as optional extras.
- The Food Safety Act 1990: Food hygiene and allergen management.
- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974: Duty of care to all children and staff.
- The Consumer Rights Act 2015: Fairness in contract terms and pricing.

3. Service One: Meals (The Full Nourishment Plan)

3.1 Overview: Government funding covers the cost of delivering high-quality education and care. It does not cover the cost of meals, snacks, or consumables.

3.2 The Offer (All-Inclusive): Opting into this plan covers **100% of your child's daily nutrition** while at the setting. It removes the stress of planning, shopping, and packing food.

- **Complete Daily Nutrition:** Includes Breakfast, Morning Snack, a Two-Course Hot Lunch, and Afternoon Tea (dependent on session times).
- **Safety First:** All meals are prepared in our professional kitchen using robust allergen-management procedures and strict choke-prevention standards (e.g. professional cutting of grapes/sausages).
- **Social Education:** Meal times are treated as a lesson. Staff model table manners, cutlery use, and social dining, which is difficult to manage with packed lunches.

3.3 Opting Out: Parent-Provided Alternative Arrangements: Parents are free to opt out of the Full Nourishment Plan. If you opt out, you assume **full responsibility** for ensuring your child is provided with safe, sufficient, and compliant nutrition.

- **Meal Windows:** If your child attends during any designated meal window (Breakfast, Lunch, or Tea), you must provide food for that specific window.

- **No Partial Catering:** To manage cross-contamination risks and administration, we do not offer partial catering (e.g. providing lunch but the parent provides tea). If you opt out, you provide all food for that session.
- **Adherence to Standards:** You must adhere strictly to the **Food Safety & Prohibited Items Standards** (Section 5), including the allergen rules, choking prevention, and mandatory temperature controls.

4. Service Two: Enhancements (The Farm School Experience)

4.1 Overview: This is an all-inclusive pass to our specialist outdoor curriculum, equipment, and premium convenience. Funding covers the *delivery* of the curriculum (the teaching), but this fee covers the *specialist materials, equipment, and take-home goods* provided through our specific Clubs.

4.2 The Farm School Club (Materials + Take-Homes): All children access the core learning concepts (e.g. life cycles). However, the Enhancements package grants access to the materials to **create and keep** the results.

- **"Seed to Spoon" Horticulture:** Growing, harvesting, and tasting. Includes: Take-home seasonal produce bags.
- **"Petal & Pod" Floristry:** Cultivating and arranging flowers. Includes: Hand-tied bouquets to take home.
- **"Mini Food Tech":** Preservation and science. Includes: Take-home items (e.g. dried herbs) in sealed, non-glass containers with ingredient labels.
- **Animal Husbandry:** Includes: Fresh eggs (when available) in branded boxes to take home.
- **"Nature Atelier" Art:** Includes: Collaborative and individual nature art pieces to keep.

4.3 The Explorer's Kit (Equipment Provision): We save you the cost and hassle of buying specialist gear. We provide, store, and maintain:

- **Professional Waterproof Dungarees:** Heavy-duty protection for muddy farm work.
- **Safety Rigger Gloves:** Child-sized protection for handling tools/animals.
- **Protective Sun Hats:** For summer months.
- **Hygiene:** Items are assigned to each child where practicable and are hygienically cleaned in line with our infection control procedures.

4.4 "Lifestyle" Perks (High Value):

- **The "Studio" Photography Package:** A professional-standard portrait taken every month (themed). Includes 1x Physical Print and 1x Digital Copy per month (delivered via secure portal in line with our Data Protection Policy).
- **"Priority Flex" Booking:** Free and immediate session swaps (subject to space), with no admin fees.

4.5 Care & Convenience (The Zero-Admin Morning):

- **Hydration:** A 500ml Stainless Steel Water Bottle provided, colour-coded, and cleaned daily by staff.
- **Nappies & Wipes:** Supply of premium brand nappies and sensitive wipes provided as reasonably required.
- **Sun Cream Service:** High-factor (SPF 50+) applied for you.
- **Emergency Laundry:** Spare clothes provided and laundered by us if accidents happen.

5. Standards for Opting Out (Parental Responsibility)

5.1 Mandatory Standards: If you choose to opt out, you must meet the following safety standards to ensure the wellbeing of your child and the safety of the setting. Failure to meet these standards is a breach of our Health and Safety Policy.

5.2 Opting Out of "Meals":

- **Provision:** You must provide nutritious food for every meal window your child attends.
- **Allergen Controls (Standing Ban):** To protect the safety of the setting, **Peanuts, Tree Nuts, and Sesame** are strictly prohibited in any form.
- **Dynamic Restriction (High Risk Cohort):** Where we have a child with a clinically confirmed severe allergy (e.g. airborne/contact risk) in the cohort, we reserve the right to impose a time-limited, setting-wide restriction on that specific allergen (e.g. Egg or Dairy). This will be notified in writing with a clear rationale.
- **Choking Prevention:** All food items that could pose a choking hazard (e.g. grapes, blueberries, cherry tomatoes, sausages) **must be cut lengthways and into small pieces** at home. Whole grapes or round foods are strictly prohibited. Staff will not re-cut food on site (except in safeguarding emergencies).
- **Storage (No Fridges):** We do not have refrigeration facilities for packed lunches. You must provide an insulated lunchbox with a frozen ice pack.
- **Hygiene & Fire Safety:** Due to hygiene controls and fire safety (keeping escape routes clear), we cannot store bags in playrooms. Packed lunches must be in a single, distinctively labelled, compact lunchbox stored in the designated area.
- **Emergency Protocol:** If a lunch is unsafe (e.g. contains nuts, choking hazards, or is unchilled), we will contact you to provide a compliant replacement within 30 minutes. If you cannot attend, we will provide an emergency meal to safeguard the child's welfare. This is pre-authorised at enrolment and charged at the published emergency rate.

5.3 Opting Out of "Enhancements":

- **Equipment:** You must provide your own waterproof dungarees, safety gloves, and sun hat. These must be taken home daily for washing.
- **Supplies:** You must provide your own nappies, wipes, sun cream, and water bottle daily.
- **Curriculum:** Your child will access the full statutory curriculum and learning opportunities but will not receive the specific "Farm School" take-home produce, eggs, crafts, or photos.

6. Charges and Changes

6.1 Invoicing: Optional services are itemised separately on your invoice.

6.2 Review: Package prices are reviewed annually in April. We will provide advance written notice of any changes. If you do not wish to accept a price change, you may opt out of the service from the effective date of the change, provided the alternative safety standards (Section 5) are met.

7. Reasonable Alternatives Statement

7.1 Access to Funded Hours: We are committed to ensuring our funded places are accessible. Parents may opt out of paying for Meals and/or Enhancements and still access their funded entitlement, provided they follow the alternative safety requirements set out in this policy. Where an alternative cannot be met safely (e.g. repeated provision of unsafe food), the setting may require immediate remedy to protect the child and the safety of others.

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