



PROSPECTUS

(2025-2026)

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WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of everyone here at The Willows Day Nursery (March) LTD, we welcome you and your child/children and trust that your involvement with us will prove to be enjoyable and rewarding.

From the time your child enters our nursery it is our aim to meet his or her individual needs to enhance development at a pace which is right for them and we look forward to sharing this learning journey, together with your participation to help us achieve this.

In this prospectus, we hope to give you an impression of the atmosphere of our nursery. One of our most distinctive features is our strong relationship with parents and carers. We believe it is the happy child with high self-esteem who will achieve personal success. We provide each child with opportunities to develop in an atmosphere of stability, care and friendliness. This environment is fostered by the commitment of our well-qualified and enthusiastic staff.

We are here to assist you and your child and we look forward to developing a mutually supportive relationship with you.

Yours faithfully
Hayley Carver
Managing Director

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of The Willows Day Nursery is to offer a high standard of care, which will enable your child to develop in a calm and well-ordered environment, stimulating their natural curiosity to explore and develop.

AIMS

To achieve this purpose, we aim to work together with parents/carers, Cambridgeshire County Council and OFSTED to enable each child to reach his/her full potential.

With the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage and meeting the individual needs of the children within our care, each child will successfully meet their full potential. The staff at The Willows Day Nursery will foster the development of self-worth in each child, in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and concern and in a happy and caring environment in which children may live in harmony with one another regardless of race or creed. They will encourage the development of each child, through individual interests in activities planned and encourage each child to have self-discipline, self-respect and respect for other people and other people's property.

ABOUT THE WILLOWS DAY NURSERY (MARCH)

The Willows Day Nursery is registered with OFSTED and opened in September 2016 as a private day nursery. The nursery caters for children from diverse backgrounds with either full or part time places available. We open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.00pm, 52 weeks of the year only closing on bank holidays.

From experience we appreciate how important flexibility is for parents and carers. We aim to work with you to ensure we are not only meeting the needs of your child but your needs as their parents and carers. We will be offering a variety of additional services for the children in our care which include:

- 15 Hours Funded Entitlement for 9months and above (please check eligibility)
- 15 hours vulnerable 2's funded entitlement (please check eligibility)
- 30 Hours Funded Entitlement for 3 and 4 years old's (terms and conditions apply)
- Additional hours for those parents accessing the funded hours entitlement
- Full wrap around care
- Holiday club for children up to the end of Year 6 (at our Westwood site)

Our nursery is accommodated in a fully refurbished house on Knights End Road in March close to the town centre with good access to all major routes to surrounding villages and cities. We boast four well-equipped rooms. Our under 2's are split across two rooms accommodating our younger babies from 3 months to roughly 14 months and a Toddler Room for our children aged 14months to – around 26 months. Our over 2s are split as two Preschools, with our downstairs accommodating our younger preschoolers and a cabin for the older preschool children. We have 2 large fully enclosed outdoor areas, one for our younger children and the other for our Preschoolers. I am pleased to announce that from September we will also be offering a holiday club for children of reception age to year 6 hosted at Westwood school in March.

OUR STAFF

Our staff have been chosen with care in the hope that we have 'teamwork', creating a friendly atmosphere at all times. We ask parents and carers to share this relaxed atmosphere with us and work together on all instances.

Twice a year we will hold a parent's/carers evening, normally January and July, where you will be able to discuss your child's progress and also voice your opinion and tell us of any new ideas you may have. Parents and carers will also be given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire anonymously covering a variety of different topics about the nursery environment and the service we offer at the end of the academic year. We will always welcome your feedback and suggestions regarding any area to allow us to be fully reflective upon practice at all times.

ADMISSIONS/SETTLING IN:

We understand how distressing it can be for children and their parents/ carers, on the first day at Nursery. This is why at The Willows Day Nursery we follow a gradual admissions process.

Once you have had a viewing of the Nursery with one of the Nursery Managers, we encourage parents to come for a number of settling sessions with their child to meet the staff caring for them and become familiar with the environment.

During the initial visit, you will learn about the Key Person system and how your child's nominated Key Person will be assigned. Our staff are readily available and happy to assist with any queries, questions or concerns you may have. A Unique Booklet is completed during this visit with the staff member conducting the first settle. They will ask some questions to gain an insight into your child's family background, their individual needs and their interests.

During the second visit, parents are encouraged to leave their child in our care, for a short period of time. With each subsequent settle, the time lengthens to help prepare your child for the new environment in which they will be learning and to develop a relationship with the staff and bond to a Key Person.

All settling sessions are completely free of charge and if parents/carers or Nursery staff feel more visits are necessary before your child's start date, or a temporary amendment of their hours would be useful, these can easily be arranged.

FEES

A deposit equivalent to two weeks fee is required on registration. This is required to secure your child's place and is fully refundable at the end of our contract providing your account is up to date and one month's written notice has been given. Fees are reviewed on an annual basis and were last reviewed on 1st June 2024. The new fees will come into effect on 1st September 2024.

We will always work out your fees in the most cost effective way. As an example should you need more than 5 hours a day but not a full day or you exceed your funding entitlement, we will charge an hourly rate to make up the shortfall plus any additional meals.

All fees are billed electronically at the start of the month and are due to be paid by the end of the invoice month – these can be paid weekly or monthly. The methods of payment we accept are as follows:

- Bank Transfer
- Childcare Vouchers
- Cash
- Standing Order
- Tax Free Childcare

Fees are payable all year (except bank holidays) even when your child is absent due to illness.

Providing a minimum of one month's written notice is given and acknowledged, prior to your child being absent due to annual leave, we will reduce your fees by 20% during this period.

EARLY YEARS FUNDING ENTITLEMENT

If your child is in receipt of the Early Years Entitlement of either the 9month funding, 2-year-old funding OR 3 -4 Year old funding, you will only be charged for any additional hours that your child attends if it exceeds your entitlement. Funding can be accessed during our opening hours of 7.30am – 6.00pm, Monday – Friday. As of September 2025, the 30hrs funding offer will continue to be rolled out to parents and carers for children from 9 months old. We will notify parents and carers when this information becomes available from our Local Authority and invite you to apply. If you already have a Tax-Free childcare account this will be the platform you will use, so please keep an eye out for any updates from them.

The funding can be accessed 50 weeks of the year either on a term time only basis or you have the flexibility to stretch your claim over the year. This will entitle you to the following options:

- Term Time only claim: 30 hours per week or 15 hours per week.
- Stretched Claim: 22.8 hours per week or 11.4 hours per week.

(Please note that there is no funding applicable over the Christmas period)

Funding is subject to meeting the specified criteria on the GOV website and is only applicable from the term after your child becomes that age.

January to March (Spring)

April to August (Summer)

September to December (Autumn)

If you are unsure whether you are eligible or how to apply for your child's funded hours, please check on the government website, www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Our Fees from September 2025 are as follows:

| UNDER 2's | | Current Fee | New Fee |
|------------------|---|-------------|----------------|
| Full Week: | (Monday – Friday, 7.30am – 6.00pm) | £288.00 | £318.00 |
| Daily Rate: | (7.30am – 6.00pm, inc lunch & tea) | £58.00 | £65.00 |
| Session: | (A typical session is 5 Hours, inc lunch/tea) | £34.00 | £37.00 |
| Hourly Rate | (Where additional hours are required) | £6.00 | £7.00 |

2 - 3 YEAR OLDS

| | | | |
|-------------|---|---------|----------------|
| Full Week: | (Monday – Friday, 7.30am – 6.00pm) | £272.00 | £299.00 |
| Daily Rate: | (7.30am – 6.00pm, inc lunch & tea) | £56.00 | £61.00 |
| Session: | (A typical session is 5 Hours, inc lunch/tea) | £33.00 | £36.00 |
| Hourly Rate | (Where additional hours are required). | £6.00 | £7.00 |

3 - 5 YEAR OLDS

| | | | |
|-------------|---|---------|----------------|
| Full Week: | (Monday – Friday, 7.30am – 6.00pm) | £257.00 | £262.00 |
| Daily Rate: | (7.30am – 6.00pm, inc lunch & tea) | £54.00 | £58.00 |
| Session: | (A typical session is 5 Hours, inc lunch/tea) | £32.00 | £35.50 |
| Hourly Rate | (Where additional hours are required) | £6.00 | £7.00 |

| | | | |
|--------|---|-------|--------------|
| Lunch: | (where this is charged at an additional cost) | £3.20 | £3.80 |
| Tea: | (where this is charged as an additional cost) | £2.50 | £2.90 |

TYPICAL DAY

As the children arrive in the morning, emphasis is put on settling them into the nursery environment. Because children often arrive at different times, activities are arranged so that they can join in freely as they wish.

Between 7.30am and 8.30am children are offered a choice for breakfast of cereal, toast, fruit and milk or water. It is inevitable that not all children will always want to eat but they are all encouraged to sit at the table during breakfast time.

At 8.30am breakfast finishes and children will go into their rooms for their planned activities. Staff are trained to realise the potential learning opportunities of each child's chosen activity and are therefore able to help achieve the desirable learning outcomes.

We believe that it is important to include outside play in the nursery's daily plan. Fresh air and natural light are vital to everyone's health and for this reason, weather permitting; the children are encouraged to play outside or are taken for a walk. We try to bring the children into contact with nature as much as possible to increase their understanding of the environment. We ask all parents to provide us with a pair of named wellington boots, which are kept at the nursery.

Dinnertime is a hot meal served at 11.30am. All meal times are used as an opportunity to encourage the development of a child's social skills. Meal times are also used to teach the children polite table manners. We expect children arriving at the nursery after this time to have had lunch at home. After lunch, some children, especially the younger ones, will need to have a sleep to recuperate for the afternoon activities.

Teatime is at 4.00pm and is followed by short structured activities. This allows children to be easily removed from their activities at their going home time.

When parents/carers collect their children, they are given a small written report on their child's day. They have an opportunity to talk with the staff about their child's day at the nursery if they so wish. A member of the management team is always available if needed.

We prefer not to impose a rigid structure on the daily activities within our nursery. Although it is obviously important to us to have planned activities to ensure that we are providing a strong comprehensive curriculum. We aim to make each child feel that learning is fun and exciting, that he/she is confident, clever and can learn. By implementing our curriculum along with a child's willingness to learn and their natural ability to experiment, we feel this will enable each child to develop self-confidence and a positive attitude towards education and life.

EDUCATION

The nursery recognises the importance of providing children with the best standards of education appropriate to their age. Staff training and curriculum reviews will take place regularly to ensure a high standard is maintained and the guidelines set by OFSTED are followed. We are committed to working towards the "Early Years Foundation Stage" which covers seven areas of learning in child development.

The seven areas of learning are as follows:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Continual monitoring of the curriculum ensures that we are offering a progressive range of activities and experiences, which enable us to meet the individual needs of each child.

Each child is encouraged to reach his/her full potential by offering a warm and caring environment, with simulative toys and activities to enhance his/her all round development. A positive image will be encouraged from an early age. This will continue throughout their duration at our nursery. It is our aim when children leave, that they have gained self-confidence and a positive attitude towards life.

We believe in promoting equal opportunities as an everyday occurrence in a child's experiences and not as a token gesture.

The Willows Day Nursery operates a key person system with carefully planned activities for children. This enables children to work in small groups and have one to one support to ensure they develop a wide range of skills.

CURRICULUM

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE:

Listening and Attention: children listen attentively in a range of situations. They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.

Understanding: children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Speaking: children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs. They use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future. They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events.

MATHEMATICS:

Numbers: children count reliably with numbers from 1 to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number. Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer. They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.

Shape, Space and Measures: children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems. They recognise, create and describe patterns. They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD:

People and Communities: children talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members. They know that other children don't always enjoy the same things, and

are sensitive to this. They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions.

The World: children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.

Technology: children recognise that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools. They select and use technology for particular purposes

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT:

Moving and Handling: children show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements. They move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space. They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

Health and Self-Care: children know the importance for good health of physical exercise, and a healthy diet, and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe. They manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN:

Exploring and using Media and Materials: children sing songs, make music and dance, and experiment with ways of changing them. They safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.

Being Imaginative: children use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes. They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role-play and stories.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Personal, social and emotional development is a very important aspect of the child's life. We therefore encourage the children to know who they are and where they fit in. They are made to feel good about themselves and to develop respect for others. This helps to become more independent.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

At the Willows we have a high emphasis on mental, emotional and physical well-being and use the five to thrive model for emotional regulation. All rooms will engage the children in age appropriate wellbeing activities on a regular basis to help with their personal, social and self-esteem development as well as their emotional regulation, literacy and intelligence. Some activities on offer are Baby massage, yoga, music and movement, mindful time and other physical exercises or

book based learning. We also learn about consent and respectful 'No's to help develop the children's autonomy and self-esteem. For more information on this please speak to a member of staff.

DIET

A well balanced diet is extremely important for a young growing child. At The Willows Day Nursery, your child will be provided with 3 meals a day, with lunch being a hot meal cooked fresh on site. Their diet will include fresh milk, fresh fruits, vegetables, carbohydrates and proteins. Parents are asked not to allow children to bring sweets, crisps and sugary drinks onto the nursery premises, and if you are providing a packed lunch please do so in a labelled lunch book with a cool pack inside to keep it fresh.

CLOTHING

Parents are advised to send children in suitable clothing. Each child must have a minimum 2 changes of clothing, which will be kept at the nursery. It is vital that all children's clothing is clearly labelled. Please do not send your child in precious clothes. If your child is still in nappies, please ensure that these are provided on a regular basis as well as plenty of underwear/clothes for those toilet training and sleep time nappies for those only using nappies at sleep time. During the warmer months you are also required to provide a labelled sun hat and sun cream so that we can keep the children sun safe during their sessions.

TOILET TRAINING

All efforts will be made to toilet train your child in partnership with parents and you will be informed of the progress in the setting. We know how difficult it is but we hope parents will be able to continue with the routine at home.

CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES

Whilst children are young and still developing their immune system it is common for them to catch various contagious illnesses. Coughs and colds are most common and children can normally recover from these alone with little to no medication, but should your child contract sickness or diarrhoea they must be kept away for at least 48 hours. Other illnesses like Measles, scarlet fever, impetigo and Chicken Pox have differing isolation periods to prevent the spread of infection. Your child must be kept away for the recommended incubation as per NHS guidelines, and if prescribed antibiotics would need to be off for the first 24hrs whilst having it, when in doubt please confer with the nursery or doctor.

MEDICATION

We will be happy to administer any prescribed medication if prior written consent has been given. A form will be available for you to complete in the registration paperwork for The Willows Day Nursery to administer pain/temperature relief such as Calpol. For prescribed medication you will be asked to complete a form on the morning you drop your child to give staff the permission to administer it. If your child has been prescribed a medication they haven't had before, they would need to have had it for 24hrs before returning to nursery.

FIRST AID

At least two members of staff are trained and qualified to administer first aid and will be onsite at all times.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The premises have been inspected and approved by a fire officer. The staff and children will practise fire drills on a bi-monthly basis so they are aware of what noise the alarm makes and how to exit the building safely in the event of a real fire.

OUTINGS

Subject to written parent/carer consent occasionally we may take children to the park, library or on other trips. These outings are designed to give children experience of different environments.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All matters relating to your child will be treated as confidential; any incidents that may happen will not be discussed in public.

NURSERY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

At The Willows Day Nursery, each individual child is encouraged to develop his or her own abilities. Through everything we do, we aim to help children to respect each other's cultures, religions, language, likes, dislikes and different outlooks. Children are encouraged to participate in all activities, to avoid gender stereotypes. We take special care to encourage less verbal or confident children and value their contributions. We try to provide play/teaching materials to reflect our multicultural society and believe that all children should have equal access to play and learning.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS POLICY

It is our policy to ensure that the individual needs of children are met and to have regard to their special needs and disabilities. This is carried out in line with the Government's and Cambridgeshire Early Years Special Needs Policy and the Code of Practice on the identification and assessment of Special Educational Needs.

The staff team work in co-operation with parents/carers, support workers, the Nursery's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and the Early Years Special Educational Needs Advisor to ensure that appropriate planning for children's development is made and where necessary further action is taken to prepare a child for school and gain additional support. Our nursery recognises the right of every child to an appropriate quality early years' experience, which includes a combination of care, play and education.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

At The Willows Day Nursery we believe that children have the right to be cared for in an environment where they will be protected and where they will have the freedom to learn about the world around them. We aim to create an atmosphere in which children feel safe and learn to trust and respect the adults who care for them.

We all have a duty to protect children. It is our responsibility as a staff team to monitor each child's progress, as their welfare is paramount. We have a legal duty to report any concerns that we may have about a child's well-being to Social Care and Health.

Although staff will aim to discuss any concerns with you, sometimes incidents may need to be reported without your consent. Confidential information about children and families will not be discussed outside the nursery but will be shared with the statutory agencies in the best interest of a child.

As part of our duty of care to safeguard the children, we actively promote and seek consent with regards to intimate care and also engage the children in the NSPCC pants campaign when they are of preschool age. For more information on this please speak to a member of staff.

BEHAVIOUR

It is the basic philosophy of The Willows Day Nursery to encourage thoughtful behaviour to others. We aim to achieve a happy and caring setting, which will lead to a safe environment. Children are taught to respect and value each other as individuals. If there is an ongoing concern about a behaviour problem, we will speak to the parents/carers and work together to bring about an improvement. Physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking will be neither used nor threatened.

UNCOLLECTED CHILDREN

A fixed late penalty fine is applicable if children are collected late. If a child has not been collected by 6.30pm and only if a parent or carer has not made contact and we have been unable to contact you or one of your emergency contacts a telephone call will be made to the duty officer of social services who will investigate the matter further.

SMOKING POLICY

We operate a strict no smoking policy for staff and parents/carers alike on the premises.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Please note that we have a no mobile phone policy on site, so when you or a carer are picking up your child, please ensure your phones are away. This is for safeguarding purposes but it also means that your child and our staff have your full attention at pick up and handovers can be smoother.

QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS

Please note that we will always be happy to discuss your child's progress and answer any queries you may have.

If there is anything you are unhappy with or you wish to make a complaint please do not hesitate to speak to a member of management who will investigate this fully in accordance with our complaints procedure.

If you feel that you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint you can refer this to:

Ofsted – Midlands Region
2nd and 3rd Floors
The Frontage, Queen Street
Nottingham
NG1 2AR