



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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11th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on key changes to our after school provision from September. As you know, our provision lasts until 5pm currently, at £5.50 per session. As you may be aware, the government has set a wrap around childcare agenda which requires schools to offer care from 8am to 6pm. Due to this, we are making changes to our offer.

Over the past months, I spent many hours meeting with external providers to start to provide After School Club here at St Monica's in 2025/26 to meet this offer. The cheapest external provider charges £11.70 per night and is in the majority of local schools. I felt this was too much for us to charge our working parents and decided not to proceed.

We are now setting our provision at £8:50 per night. This was a difficult decision and made after many hours looking at possible prices and the rising costs we face as a school, whilst staying affordable for our parents. **This new model means After School Club will be open from 3:15 - 6pm each night. Children will now get a different snack each night.** Please note, we do not aim to make any profit from our After School Club provision, we aim to make it cost neutral - if we can reduce costs in the future, we will.

- **3:15pm - 6pm - £8:50**
- **Sibling reduction = £1 (£7.50 per child)**

An important part of this process is the help and support all working parents can receive. All working parents can claim for tax free childcare, which would take the price to £6.80 per night.

I have placed detailed information on the next page to support you. If you need any assistance, please email finance.stmonicas@schools.sefton.gov.uk for support. Please complete the following form: <https://forms.gle/PU4ER9x4gZUu8b8e8> . Many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

Best Regards

Mr. J. R. Gouldbourne

Headteacher

Help with Childcare Costs – Are You Eligible?

There are several ways you may be able to get help with the cost of after school provision. Here's a summary of the main options available:

Option 1: Tax-Free Childcare

If you're a working parent, you could receive up to 20% top-up from the government for every £8 you pay. You'll get a Tax-Free Childcare account, which works like a bank account. You pay in money, the government adds 20%, and you then pay your childcare provider directly.

- **This Reduces the daily after school fee from £8.50 to £6.80 per session**
- To check eligibility, visit: childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk
- Use the Government [childcare calculator to compare support options](#)

You're usually eligible if:

- Your child is under 12 (or under 17 if they have a disability) and lives with you
- You (and your partner, if you have one):
 - Are 16 or over
 - Live and work in the UK
 - Earn at least £107.20 per week (unless in first year of self-employment)
 - Earn less than £100,000 per year each
 - Do not already receive childcare support through a voucher or salary sacrifice scheme

You may also be eligible if one partner receives:

- Carer's Allowance
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disablement Benefit: Further information can be found at <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk>

Option 2: Working Tax/Universal Credit

If you work, are responsible for a child, and pay for childcare, you may be able to claim support through the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit:

- You could receive up to 85% of childcare costs
- This could reduce your after school fee to as little as £1.28 per session
- The exact amount depends on your household income
- **Check eligibility:** Call the Universal Credit Helpline on 0800 328 5644

Option 3: College/University Bursaries

If you are currently in training at a **college or university**, you may be eligible for **bursaries to help with childcare costs**. Please speak to your training provider directly to find out what support they may be able to offer.

Option 4: Childcare Vouchers

Some employers are registered with childcare voucher schemes, which allow you to pay for childcare through a salary sacrifice arrangement. This means the cost is taken from your salary before tax and National Insurance, potentially saving you money. Please check with your employer to see if they offer this scheme.