

Rydalmere Public School Preschool Procedure



Payment of fees

Reviewed: 10 - 3 - 19

<u>Education and care services regulation/s</u>	NSW Department of Education policy, procedure or guidelines	Relevant National Quality Standard/s
<u>Regulation 168(2)(n)</u>	<p>The following department policies and relevant documents can be accessed from the preschool section of the department's website;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool Class Fees in Government Schools Policy PD/2011/0423/V01 • Finance in schools handbook (FISH) • Preschool fee schedule 	7.1: Governance supports the operation of a quality service.

- Rydalmere preschool was established to cater to the needs of children who, due to the economic circumstances of their parents, may not be able to access preschool services. Fees charged in the preschool can be subject to levies and or exemption see appendix 1.1 Policy for the Exemption of Fees in Rydalmere Preschool. Parents who wish to seek an exemption from fees must apply in writing to the school principal. The principal will assess each individual request and will advise parents of the outcome.
- School administration office is responsible for issuing invoices to parents of preschool children. Fees are calculated each term and invoices are given out early in the term.
- If a child's fees are not paid within the due date the school administration office will follow this up with the parent a minimum of two times. If fees remain unpaid the issue may be referred to the Department of education/ finance section.
- In order to receive a fee exemption a current health care card must be produced at the beginning of the term. The school administration office will follow up any out of date cards.
- On acceptance of a preschool position payment of a non-refundable \$50 administration fee is to be made for each child.



PRESCHOOL FEES - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question:

Why do I have to pay preschool fees in a Government (public school) preschool?

Answer:

The Government believes that every family should be able to access an affordable, high quality early childhood education for their child. This new policy will bring preschools in public schools in line with the wider early childhood sector in NSW where parents pay fees for their children to access a preschool education. However, the Minister has been very clear that no child will be excluded from preschool in a public school because of the financial circumstances of their family. Families that can afford to pay will be asked to pay the full preschool fee. There will be different fees in different preschools throughout NSW in recognition of our diverse communities.

Question:

How much will I have to pay for preschool fees?

Answer:

The government has provided a range of fees for its preschools so that families who are experiencing financial hardship and/or who have a Commonwealth Health Care Card are entitled to fee relief. This means that some families will have a reduced fee and in some circumstances families may not have to pay a fee at all. Your school principal will have more information about the preschool fees.

It is important that you make a time to have a confidential conversation with your school principal concerning any questions you may have about your eligibility for fee relief, so that an appropriate fee can be charged for your child's attendance at preschool.

Question:

What if I can't afford to pay fees?

Answer:

The Minister for Education has made it very clear that he does not want any families to miss out on preschool because of financial hardship. The new fee structure that has been developed will protect low income and disadvantaged families. Low income families who have a Commonwealth Health Care Card will get fee relief.

In exceptional circumstances, the school principal will be able to consider a full fee exemption on either a short or long term basis. Parents can be assured that they can discuss issues relating to fees with the principal in absolute confidentiality.

Question:

Won't this policy further disadvantage Aboriginal children? What about the Government's commitment to closing the gap between outcomes for Aboriginal children and non-Aboriginal children?

The review into Aboriginal education identified financial considerations and transport as the two biggest barriers to Aboriginal children accessing an early childhood education. Doesn't this policy work against Aboriginal children attending preschool?

Answer:

This Government is committed to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW. Accessing a high quality early childhood education helps to ensure the best possible start in life. That is why our new policy provides free access to public school preschool classes for Aboriginal children living in our most disadvantaged communities and why all other Aboriginal children are eligible for fee relief.

It is our intention to continue to increase the numbers of Aboriginal children accessing preschool.

Question:

When do I have to pay?

Answer:

We want to make sure that the payment of fees can be arranged to best suit the circumstances of families and so this will be worked out locally to best fit families with children attending the preschool classes. Your school will advise you about when and how to pay the preschool fees.

The fees will commence in Government school preschool classes at the start of the 2012 school year.

Question:

Will there be any other compulsory fees?

Answer:

No, the preschool classes will not have any other compulsory fees.

Question:

Will I be eligible for the Commonwealth Child Care Benefit or the Child Care Tax Rebate for preschool fees in government preschools?

Answer:

No, the Commonwealth Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Tax Rebate are only available to services that operate for extended hours (such as long day care) and the Department's preschool classes operate during school hours and do not provide extended hours.