

Childcare Bookings for Schools – Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make a booking?

Through our bespoke-built online booking system at <https://st-nicolas-mary.cbfs.uk/>.

Once you have accessed the system, all you need to do is to register an account or log in before you start making bookings. Registration is completely free and should take no longer than 10 minutes.

What types of booking are available?

Permanent – the same sessions each week, guaranteed on a rolling and ongoing basis.

- Cancellation terms: to amend or cancel your whole Permanent Booking, you will need to give 1 month's notice; any individual session cancelled within the booking is non-refundable.

Ad hoc – individual dates with no ongoing commitment, subject to availability when booking.

- Cancellation terms: any individual session cancelled with 5 or more working day's notice will be credited back to your Childcare Bookings account.

When will payment be due for any bookings made?

For permanent bookings – Monthly bills, for the exact amount of that month's childcare, are processed in advance on the 1st working day of each month. For example, a permanent booking made now will not incur any charge until 1st September. At this point, you do not need to do anything – payment will be taken automatically for all booked sessions falling in September.

For ad hoc bookings – Payment is due at the time of booking, in order to checkout and complete the process.

What payment methods are available?

We can accept payments via Card, Childcare Vouchers or the Tax-Free Childcare scheme.

Payments cannot be made via BACS, cash or cheque (either at club or direct to our office).

Please see our further information on how to access the right support for your childcare fees that follow these FAQs.

How do I pay via Childcare Vouchers or using the Tax-Free Childcare scheme?

Once you have registered an account on our online booking system, simply send us a Childcare Voucher or Tax Free Childcare payment. Once the payment reaches our bank account, these funds will be credited to your Online Account Balance. Your Online Account Balance can then be used as a payment method when making bookings.

Please allow 4 days for any Childcare Voucher or Tax Free Childcare payments to reach us. To avoid any further delay, please provide us with your child's unique Tax Free Childcare reference in advance; or use your child's full name as the reference for any Childcare Voucher payments.

Can I send Childcare Vouchers or Tax-Free Childcare payments without making a booking?

Yes – you can make Childcare Vouchers or Tax-Free Childcare payments at any point.

Indeed, many CBfS customers build and maintain a surplus in their Online Account Balance to prepare for their monthly bill or avoid waiting for individual payments to clear when making ad-hoc bookings. This credit can be returned to you at any point.

[Help with Childcare Costs](#)

Here is a helpful list of services available to help you with your childcare costs and how to access them.

1. Tax-Free Childcare Scheme

What is it? This government initiative assists parents by topping up their childcare payments. For every £8 a parent deposits into their account, the government adds £2 (up to £2,000 per child, per year).

More information via [the government website](#).

2. Childcare Vouchers

What is it? Although closed to new entrants since October 2018, this scheme allows parents that are already registered to pay for childcare from their pre-tax salary, resulting in savings.

More information via [the government website](#).

3. Universal Credit

What is it? Parents receiving Universal Credit can claim back up to 85% of their childcare costs, offering substantial support for families.

More information via [the government website](#).

4. MOD's Wraparound Childcare Scheme

What is it? Tailored for military families, this scheme offers completely free childcare for children aged 4-11 years, acknowledging the unique challenges faced by service families.

More information via [the government website](#).

5. Childcare Grant Scheme for Students

What is it? This is a vital resource for full-time students with children, covering up to 85% of childcare costs during both term time and holidays.

More information via [the government website](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01444 523335 or enquiries@childcarebookings.co.uk for further information and support.