



CHILDCARE VOUCHERS AND TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Q. What are childcare vouchers?

A. Childcare Vouchers are an acceptable method of paying for registered childcare. They are exempt from Tax and National Insurance Contributions (NICs) and therefore offer potential savings for working parents who use registered childcare. This scheme closed to new applicants in 2018.

Q. What is Tax-Free Childcare?

A. Tax-Free Childcare is a government scheme and replaced the childcare voucher scheme. Go to www.gov.uk/get-tax-free-childcare for more information about the scheme and eligibility.

Q. What are childcare vouchers and Tax-Free Childcare funds used for?

A. Childcare vouchers and Tax-Free Childcare funds are used to pay for registered or approved childcare for a qualifying child. At Claremont, parents can use the childcare vouchers/funds to pay for all child care costs up to the age of 5, including Nursery and some Reception fees, depending on date of birth. Please note school lunches and insurance are not covered.

Q. What happens after the age of 5?

A. As per HMRC guidelines, the child will qualify for suitable childcare:

- Until 1 September following his/her 15th birthday, or
- Until 1 September following his/her 16th birthday, if he/she is disabled

Q. What are suitable child care costs after the age of 5?

A. Claremont offers a variety of services that can be paid through childcare vouchers:

- Wrap around care, such as Breakfast and After-school clubs

In addition, the school can also accept childcare vouchers for extra-curricular clubs provided they are:

- Charged separately to compulsory education fees
- Taking place outside normal school hours
- Not a part of the National Curriculum
- Taking place on the school's premises

Q. What are the payment methods?

A. Claremont accepts payments via registered childcare voucher companies or an employer and from a Tax-Free Childcare account. It is important that payments are made against eligible and suitable child care costs. Please email billing@claremont.surrey.sch.uk when making payment, so that the payment can be easily identified and allocated correctly.