

How to apply to Government tax free childcare:

Tax Free Childcare

Parents in the UK are entitled to receive a portion of their childcare tax-free.

As Maria Montessori School is a registered provider of tax-free childcare, tax free childcare and childcare vouchers can be used as a contribution towards our school fees for children below the age of 5.

What is Tax-Free Childcare?

Tax-Free Childcare is where eligible parents receive 20% of their annual childcare costs paid for by the Government up to a maximum of £2,000 per child per year. This means that for every 80p you pay, the Government pays 20p.

How does Tax-Free Childcare Work?

The scheme operates through an online Childcare account, which parents and the Government pay into. You will pay your childcare fees directly into this account and the Government will 'top-up' the account with their contribution.

The money will then be paid directly to The Maria Montessori School.

The maximum amount of fees that can be covered by this scheme is £10,000 (£8,000 payable from the parents and £2,000 from the Government). Any remaining fees should be paid by bank transfer or debit or credit card as per the payment details provided on your school fee invoice. **The full amount of the termly fees must be paid on or before the first day of term.**

How do I Qualify for Tax-Free Childcare?

To be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare you must:

- Have one or more children aged under 12.
- Work at least 16 hours a week, being paid the National Living Wage or higher - this means both of you if you're in a couple.
- Earn under £100,000 a year. This applies to both of you if you're in a couple (so if one earns more than £100,000, then, as a couple, you can't access Tax-Free Childcare).

It is also open to self-employed parents. To support newly self-employed parents there is a "start-up" period, during which parents won't have to earn the minimum income level.

How to claim Tax-Free Childcare?

Just follow these steps:

1. You'll need to set up an online childcare account via Childcare Choices <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> to use the scheme.
2. You will be asked to reconfirm your circumstances every 3 months.
3. You will be able to transfer money in from your bank as you would any other 'savings' account. Others such as grandparents or family friends can also put cash in. You will also be able to withdraw money if your circumstances change. If you do so, the Government will withdraw its corresponding contribution.
4. When you need to pay your child's fees you will be able to pay directly to the **Maria Montessori School** from this account. You will need to give the post code of the MMI Head Office – **NW3 5NW** and our provider reference number **131978**.
5. The amount received by the school will be 20% higher (as long as you still have benefit left).

Further Information

Here is a useful link which may help to answer any other questions that you may have - 10 things parents should know <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-free-childcare-10-things-parents-should-know>