

## Early Years Schools Briefing

### Questions and Answers

11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 via MS Teams

The  
**Early Years**  
Team

Please find below the questions and answers raised across the 2 sessions held, for your information.

**Q1. Where can I find the hourly base rates for 2025/26?**

These are on the [funding pages](#) of the Early Years website.

**Q2. In September 2025, will all the early years entitlements all increase to 30 hours per week?**

No. In September 2025, only the working parent entitlements for children from 9 months of age will be increased to 30 hours per week, the 2 year old offer for families receiving additional support and the universal offer for 3 and 4 year olds will remain at 15 hours per week.

**Q3. Do schools have to offer all the early years entitlements?**

No, we know the vast majority of early years entitlements for children under 3 are delivered in the private, voluntary and independent sector. Schools should assess their own business models and decide which of the entitlements they can offer and for how many places. We know most schools offer the early years entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds, and some take children from 2 years of age. Whatever the model in your school, you should ensure this information is clear for parents accessing their early years entitlements with you.

**Q4. We have a low numbers so are taking children into school as they turn 3, is there funding to support them or do we just 'take the hit'?**

This cohort of children are classed as rising 3's and may be able to access funding through the entitlement for families receiving additional support or through the working parent entitlements. We would advise you to encourage parents to check their eligibility to see if you could claim funding for them. To check eligibility for families receiving additional support, please contact the Families Information Service via [Ask Lion](#) or call 0115 87 65910 and to check eligibility for working parent entitlements, parents should apply to HMRC through the [Childcare Choices](#) website. You may also be able to claim additional Early Years Pupil Premium Funding for these children if they are eligible. If the family are not entitled to either of these funding streams and you offer the child a place, your school won't be funded for their attendance and these costs will need to be met from your school budget.

**Q5. Why are there 2 different hourly rates for the 2 different entitlements for 2 year olds?**

LAs are required to ensure that the final hourly rate paid to providers for the 2 year old entitlement for families receiving additional support is at least equal to (or more than) the final hourly rate paid for the 2 year old working parent entitlement to ensure providers are not disincentivised from offering the 2 year old entitlement for families receiving additional support. Following consultation in January 2024, the local formula for 2 year olds has been constructed to reflect a higher hourly base rate for 2 year olds of families receiving additional support to meet this requirement.

**Q6. If a parent arrives today with a working parent eligibility code can they start accessing their funded hours straight away?**

This depends on their 'eligible from' date. To ascertain the 'eligible from' date, you need to run a check on the portal under the working parent entitlement tab. The 'eligible from' date is the date they applied, and they can only begin accessing the working parent entitlement funding the term after this date. For example, if they arrived today, 11<sup>th</sup> February, with their eligibility code and their 'eligible from' date was before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, then they could access their funded hours straight away. If they applied today and their 'eligible from' date is 11<sup>th</sup> February, then they would have to wait until 1<sup>st</sup> April before being able to access their funded hours. The parent's letter from HMRC also states that they cannot start until the term after they receive the code.



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**Q7. Do we need to check codes and eligibility before offering a place?**

Yes, with all funding streams, apart from the 15 hours universal 3 & 4 year old funding, you must be checking eligibility before offering places to ensure that you will receive the funding.

**Q8. Is there a template we can use to ask parents for their details to check EYPP eligibility and how do we arrange for EYPP checks to be undertaken for late starters?**

For the PVI sector, there is a section for including details as part of the Parent/Provider Agreement, but schools can use the same template, or parts of it, if this would be helpful. See page 7 & 8 of [this guide](#). In regards to late EYPP checks, we can undertake these checks for any late starters or children where the EYPP information has been obtained after the headcount deadline (*please be mindful that we can not undertake checks where schools have simply forgotten to add details on as this could become unmanageable*), we will also ask our school funding colleagues if a column can be included on the late claims form they send out to capture any EYPP checks.

**Q8. If I have any questions regarding the early years entitlements who do I contact?**

There is a wealth of information on our funding pages and particularly in the Provider Agreement, but if you need further support please email [eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:eyfunding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) and a member of the Early Years Funding Team will contact you.

*Early Years Team  
February 2025*