EARLY EDUCATION FUNDING – STRETCHED OFFER GUIDANCE

Stretching funded hours

- The LA has a statutory duty to 'enable parents to take up their child's free place in patterns of hours that 'stretch' their child's entitlement by taking fewer hours a week over more weeks of the year, where there is provider capacity and parental demand'. (DfE Early Education and Childcare: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities June 2018, A2.12, page 16)
- 2. There is no requirement on any individual provider to deliver a stretched offer and parents do not have the right to demand one.
- 3. There are advantages and disadvantages of stretching some entitlement may be lost by providers or parents or both see **other considerations** below.
- 4. Maximum funded hours available **570** or **1140** (38 weeks x 15/30 hours). Maximum weekly funded hours available **15/30**.
- 5. You need to decide which period you are stretching funding over and for how many weeks :-
 - 12 months/3 terms (up to max of 52 weeks)
 - 2 terms (35 weeks maximum for Spring and Summer)
 - 1 term (22 weeks maximum for Summer)
- 6. Settings can only stretch funded hours over their published opening hours and weeks e.g. 48, 50 or 51 weeks.

Stretching process and examples

1. <u>Example stretching over 52 weeks (Autumn, Spring & Summer terms -</u> equivalent to 38 weeks funding)

Α	В	С	D Funded Hours to be entered onto the portal				
Maximum funded hours available	Weeks attending	Funded Hours per week					
		Col A / Col B	Col B x Col C / 38				
570	52	10.96	15				
1140	52	21.92	30				

Child Attending 10 Hours per week

A	В	C	D
Weekly Hours attended	Weeks attending	Hours attended per year Col A x Col B	Funded hours to be entered on to the portal Col C / 38 weeks
10	52	520	13.68
20	52	1040	27.37



2. Example Stretching over 35 weeks (Spring & Summer terms – equivalent to 24 weeks funding)

Α	В	С	D			
Maximum funded hours available	Weeks attending	Funded Hours per week	Funded Hours to be entered onto the portal			
	_	Col A / Col B	Col B x Col C / 24			
360	35	10.29	15			
720	35	20.57	30			

Child Attending 10 Hours per week

Α	В	C	D			
Weekly Hours attended	Weeks attending	Hours attended per year	Funded hours to be entered on to the portal			
	_	Col A x Col B	Col C / 24 weeks			
10	35	350	14.58			
20	35	700	29.17			

3. <u>Example Stretching over 22 weeks (Summer term – equivalent to 13 weeks</u> <u>funding)</u>

Α	В	С	D
Maximum funded hours available	Weeks attending	Funded Hours per week	Funded Hours to be entered onto the portal
		Col A / Col B	Col B x Col C / 13
195	22	8.86	15
390	22	17.73	30

Child Attending a 10 Hours per week Stretch Model – WARNING - There are a maximum of 195 funded hours for the Summer term. Settings will have to charge for the additional hours attended at their standard fees.

Α	В	C	D				
Weekly Hours attended	Weeks attending	Hours attended per year Col A x Col B	Funded hours to be entered on to the portal Col C / 13 weeks				
10	22	220	15 (1.92 hours to be charged at standard rate)				
20	22	440	30 (3.85 hours to be charged at standard rate)				



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Other considerations:-

- Depending on when a child starts in an academic year, not all children will attend for a full 52 weeks in their second year of claiming – when stretching over less than a 52 week period you will need to reduce the number of funded hours offered and shown on invoices.
- Stretched funding for leavers is particularly difficult as it will vary depending where a child is up to in their stretched cycle. If a child leaves and has stretched their funding, early education funding paid should match the funded hours allocated on your invoices. This may need to be adjusted according to when the child leaves in the stretched cycle.

For example if a child leaves before Headcount in the 3rd term of an expected 3 terms stretch, you may have been paid more funding than would have been due for the whole of the year because of accumulated funding from previous terms. You will need to contact the funding office to arrange for funding to be re-paid.

In the event that the funded hours are less than the hours allocated on your invoices for stretch i.e. a child starts in the Summer term and leaves at the end of the term, please be aware that you will need to charge the parents for the difference see example 3. (Maximum funding is dictated by the funding caps in place – Autumn 210/420, Spring 165/330 and Summer 195/390 hours).

Funding would have been accumulated in subsequent terms had the child stayed for 3 terms.

- Please be aware that there may be different funding implications for each term. It is the responsibility of the setting to notify parents of any charges that may apply.
- The same Headcount rules will apply to children on a stretch offer as the term-time offer. A child must be on role for the hours that you are claiming for the whole of the term at the Headcount date, as advised by the LA. We will not be able to increase funded hours after the Headcount date.
- If a child has moved settings and stretched their funding at their previous setting, please contact the Funding Team (01926 742233) for confirmation of individual amounts available for funding as stretched periods may differ across the settings.
- Stretch models <u>must</u> be clearly written into Fee information for parents with the specific models available stating number of weeks available, funded hours offered and cost for any additional services.
- Parents may choose to vary their child's funded hours each term throughout the year. It is necessary to have robust systems in place to manage the calculations that will need to be made to ensure that claimed hours are correct and parents receive the correct number of funded hours for their child. Children must have accumulated sufficient funded hours.



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- Funding can be shared between a maximum of two sites in a single day. Communications may be required with the other settings to ensure that all settings are clear on who will be claiming which hours and how many.
- Parental Declaration Forms (PDF's) must show the correct number of stretched hours and include all providers and models on the form.
- Averaging for invoicing purposes e.g. spreading annual funded hours and charges over equal monthly amounts is <u>NOT</u> the same as stretch.
- Be transparent and consistent to ensure parents / carers are clear on how they are being charged and funded hours given. Fee information must be reflected on invoices.
- Extended periods of absence may affect a child's funding and the stretch may need to be re-calculated
- Please ensure that as a setting the team dealing with funding, charging and invoicing fully understand the models that the service offers.

Thank you for working with us to ensure parents can access their

funded hours in a way that best suits their needs.

For further information or queries please contact:

Funding Office:

3 & 4 Year funding - 01926 742233

2 Year funding - 01926 742218

eyfunding@warwickshire.gov.uk

Early Years Business Support Officers:

Jessica Holderness - 01926 742995

earlyyears@warwickshire.gov.uk

Disclaimer: This guidance is provided to support settings to develop a stretched offer. Settings can choose whether to use this guidance or develop their own offer and are responsible for ensuring their offer meets the statutory guidance.





	HOURS PER WEEK	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	38	76	114	152	190	228	266	304	342	380	418	456	494	532	570	
	39	78	117	156	195	234	273	312	351	390	429	468	507	546	585	
	40	80	120	160	200	240	280	320	360	400	440	480	520	560	600	
	41	82	123	164	205	246	287	328	369	410	451	492	533	574	615	
	42	84	126	168	210	252	294	336	378	420	462	504	546	588	630	
WEEKS PER YEAR	43	86	129	172	215	258	301	344	387	430	473	516	559	602	645	
ER Y	44	88	132	176	220	264	308	352	396	440	484	528	572	616	660	
KS P	45	90	135	180	225	270	315	360	405	450	495	540	585	630	675	
WEE	46	92	138	184	230	276	322	368	414	460	506	552	598	644	690	
	47	94	141	188	235	282	329	376	423	470	517	564	611	658	705	
	48	96	144	192	240	288	336	384	432	480	528	576	624	672	720	
	49	98	147	196	245	294	343	392	441	490	539	588	637	686	735	
	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650	700	750	
	51	102	153	204	255	306	357	408	459	510	561	612	663	714	765	
	52	104	156	208	260	312	364	416	468	520	572	624	676	728	780	
	HOURS PER	40	47	40	10	20	24	22	22	24	25	20	07	20	20	20
	WEEK	16	17 646	18 684	19 722	20	21 798	22 836	23 874	24	25	26 988	27 1026	28 1064	29 1102	30 1140
	38 39	608 624	663	702	722	760 780	819	858	897	912 936	950 975	1014	1020	1092	1131	1140
	40	640	680	720	741	800	840		091	930	975	1014	1055	1092	1131	
	40	656	697		700	000	040		020	060	1000	1040	1080	1120		
		000		738	779	820	861	880	920 943	960 984	1000	1040	1080	1120		
AR	42	672		738	779 798	820 840	861	902	943	984	1025	1066	1107	1120		
RYE	42	672	714	756	798	840	882	902 924	943 966	984 1008	1025 1050	1066 1092		1120		
	43	688	714 731	756 774	798 817	840 860	882 903	902 924 946	943 966 989	984 1008 1032	1025 1050 1075	1066	1107	1120		
S PEI	43	688 704	714 731 748	756 774 792	798 817 836	840 860 880	882 903 924	902 924 946 968	943 966 989 1012	984 1008 1032 1056	1025 1050 1075 1100	1066 1092	1107	1120		
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