

Autumn Term 2024 – Termly Information Letter



This document contains **all** the important information relevant to the process for claiming Early Years Entitlements for children of 9 months +, 2 year olds and 3 & 4 year-olds for the Autumn Term 2024.

June 2024

Dear Headteacher,

Please read **ALL** the information contained in this letter carefully.

People Directorate

Early Years & Childcare Entitlements,
Sufficiency & Business Support
Shire Hall
Market Place
Warwick
CV34 4RL

eyfunding@warwickshire.gov.uk

Academic Year 2024/2025 School Term Dates

| Funded weeks: | Warwickshire County Council School Terms: | 2024/2025 Headcount Dates: |
|--|--|--|
| Autumn Term – 14 weeks Spring Term – 11 weeks Summer Term – 13 weeks | 02/09/2024 – 20/12/2024 - 15 weeks*** 06/01/2025 – 11/04/2025 – 13 weeks* 28/04/2025 – 21/07/2025 – 11 weeks** | Autumn Term – 3 rd October 2024 Spring Term – 16 th January 2025 Summer Term - 15 th May 2025 |

NOTE: Changes for the academic year 2024/2025 to align funding with the DfE term dates and Eligibility Code date criteria, due to the late Easter break.

*The Spring term funding will be paid between 06.01.2025 and 31.03.2025 – 11 weeks funding

**The Summer term funding will be paid between 01.04.2025 and 21.07.2025 – 13 weeks funding

This will mean that children meeting the relevant eligible age for funding on or before 31st March 2025 will be able to start their funded place for the Summer term on 1st April 2025, 2 weeks before the Easter Holidays. (The 2 weeks Easter holidays are not counted as funded weeks).

For term time only settings, if you choose to start new children after the Easter holidays, you will need to decide how the 2 weeks funding for the start of the Summer term will be used.

*** 1 week of the Autumn term will be unfunded.

Children eligible for funding in the Autumn Term 2024

Working Parent Entitlement for 9 months + - 2 years old:

- Children born between 1st September 2022 and 30th November 2023

Working Parent Entitlement for 2-year-olds and 2 Help (Disadvantaged):

- Children born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022

Universal Entitlement and the Working Parent Entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds:

- Children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2021

Please note: Not all children will be carried forward from the Summer Term 2024 Headcount. Please check that all of the expected children are on your Headcount.

Synergy FIS Provider Portal

All types of funding (2Help, Universal Entitlement and Extended hours for 3 & 4 year olds, Expanded hours Working Parent Entitlements for 9 months +) are claimed via the Synergy FIS Provider Portal: <https://admissions.warwickshire.gov.uk/synergy/providers>

Dates and Rates

Important dates

- Provider Portal opens for Estimate and Actual Headcount claims – 12th August 2024
- Submission deadline for Estimate hours – 6th September 2024
- Headcount day – 3rd October 2024
- Submission deadline for Actual Headcount claim – 11th October 2024
- Online Adjustment tab opens – 4th November 2024
- Submission deadline for Online Adjustments – 6th December 2024

Payment Dates

Your interim payments will be based on the WEEKLY Estimate Hours submitted via the Provider Portal by the deadline date of 6th September 2024. Interim payments are based on 70% of the Estimate Hours submitted.

- 18th September 2024 - 3 & 4 year old Universal and Extended entitlements payment
- 20th September 2024 - 2 Help and 9 month+ Expanded entitlements payment

Your final payment will be based on your Actual Headcount Hours submitted via the Provider Portal by the deadline date of 11th October 2024. This payment is the total funding amount for the term minus the interim payment made, plus any adjustments for DAF.

- 20th November 2024 - 3 & 4 year old Universal and Extended entitlements payment
- 22nd November 2024 - 2 Help and 9 month+ Expanded entitlements payment

If you do not enter estimate hours, you will NOT receive an interim payment and will receive the full Actual Headcount claim funding in November.

Eligibility Code dates ACCEPTED - Autumn Term 2024

Eligibility Codes starting with 50, or 40 for foster carers:

- Validity start date on or before 31st August 2024
- Validity end date on or after 2nd September 2024
- *Delayed codes starting with 50 issued by 14th September 2024 where evidence is seen that the application was made before 31st August 2024
- Temporary codes starting with 11 issued by 14th September 2024

Eligibility Code dates NOT ACCEPTED - Autumn Term 2024

- Codes with a validity start date on or after 2nd September 2024 (except for agreed delayed codes only*)
- Children who are new to the Working Parent Entitlement funding with a code with a validity end date ending before 2nd September 2024.
- Continuing codes where the Grace Period expired on 31st August 2024, with a validity start date on or after 1st September 2024 (except for agreed delayed codes only*)

Funding Rates

For the Financial Year 2024/2025 from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, the hourly rates for the Early Years Entitlements are:

- 9 months + Expanded Working Parent Entitlement - £10.07 per hour
- 2-year funding (2Help, and Expanded Working Parent Entitlement for 2-year-olds) - £7.39 per hour
- 3- & 4-year funding (Universal, and Extended Working Parent Entitlement) - £5.25 per hour (£5.22 base rate + £0.03 Teacher Pay and Pension Grant)
- 3- & 4-year-old Universal Entitlement Supplementary Funding - £4.61 (£4.64 minus £0.03 TPPG paid in base rate for universal hours)
- Deprivation Factor (DF) - 68p per hour
- Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) - 68p per hours
- Disability Access Fund (DAF) - £910.00 paid annually

Preparation for the term

Eligibility Codes for the Working Parent Entitlements

Please direct parents to the Government Childcare Choices website where they can find more information about the eligibility criteria and how to apply: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>.

Checking the eligibility of a Working Parent Entitlement Code:

BEFORE offering a funded place under the Expanded Working Parent Entitlements for 9 months +, and the Extended Working Parent Entitlements for 3- & 4-year-olds:

- Complete a validity check as soon as the parent gives you the code and no later than the start of the term funding is to be used, on or before 2nd September 2024.
- Check the dates of the Eligibility Code using the Eligibility Checker on the Provider Portal to confirm that the code dates are eligible for funding for the Autumn term 2024 as above.
- DO NOT wait until Headcount submission to check if an Eligibility Code is valid for funding for the term, as you risk not being able to claim funding for the working parent entitlement for that term.

Parental Declaration Form (PDF)

- The Parental Declaration Form for the Academic Year 2024/2025 **MUST** be fully completed for every child claiming the Early Years Funded Entitlements for 9 months +, 2 year olds and 3- & 4-year-olds, before a funding claim is made.
- This can be found on Page 2 of the Warwickshire website under 'Guidance documents': [Early education funding for two, three and four-year-olds – Education and Early Years providers \(warwickshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/early-years-funding)

The Parental Declaration Form can be completed electronically, therefore, it can be emailed and downloaded by parents to complete and return to you, without using a paper copy.

Funding tasks

Estimates

Provider Portal opens: 12th August 2024
Estimate Submission Deadline: 6th September 2024

If Estimate hours have not been submitted by this deadline date, interim payments will NOT be made. The full terms funding payment will be made at the final payment date.

- Estimate hours are added to the Provider Portal under the 'Estimates' tab.
- Estimates for 9 months +, 2-year-olds, and 3- & 4-year-olds must be entered separately.
- Enter the total WEEKLY hours for all children for each funding age range:
E.g., 5 x 2-year-old children claiming 15 hours funding per week = 5 x 15 = 75 hours entered under 2 year funding and 10 x 3- & 4-year-old children claiming 15 hours funding per week = 10 x 15 = 150 hours entered in 3 & 4 year funding.
- DO NOT enter the total termly hours.

Actual Headcount

Actual Headcount submissions can be made from the date of the Provider Portal opening: 12th August 2024 until the submission deadline date.

Headcount day: 3rd October 2024

- Actual Headcount submissions are added to the Provider Portal from the 'Actuals' tab.
- Children should be added who are attending your setting during the Headcount week 30th September 2024 - 4th October 2024 (including children who are not attending due to sickness or temporary absences e.g., on holiday).
- Each child **MUST** have a fully completed Parental Declaration Form (PDF) (see Parental Declaration Form section for further details).

Submission deadline for Actual Headcount claim: 11th October 2024

- The Provider Portal closes for entering Actual hours and for sending DAF and EYPP supporting information (see DAF and EYPP sections for further details).

- You **MUST** check that all details are correct, the correct funding is being claimed, eligibility for working parent entitlements and 2 Help funding has been confirmed before the start of the term and make any changes or adjustments, as necessary.

Online Adjustments

Online Adjustment tab opens: 4th November 2024

Submission Deadline date: 6th December 2024

- Online Adjustments are added to the Provider Portal under the 'Adjustments' tab.
- Adjustments to the Headcount **MUST** be claimed using the Online Adjustments tab on the Provider Portal when it opens after the Headcount period.

Funding types

Universal Entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds

There is **NO** application process for the Universal Entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds. If a parent is claiming the Universal Entitlement for their child, they must complete Part 1 of the Parental Declaration Form, in full, with the child's details, and provide proof of the child's date of birth.

2Help Funding for 2-year-olds

- Parents who have a determination of eligibility for 2Help will have an eligibility confirmation letter, which you must take a copy of before offering a funded place under the 2Help entitlement.
- The EY Voucher code (a combination of six letters and numbers) from the confirmation letter must be added to Part 2 of the Parental Declaration Form in the '2Help entitlement' section.
- Confirmation of eligibility issued by local authorities from outside of Warwickshire must be sent with the funding claim, attached to the Documents tab.
- The Early Years Funding Office will **NOT** be able to approve your claim for 2Help funding until eligibility can be confirmed.

Working Parent Entitlement funding

If a parent is claiming the Working Parent Entitlement for their child, they must also complete the Working Parent Expanded 15 hours entitlement for 9 months +, or the Working Parent Extended 15 hours entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds in Part 2 of the Parental Declaration Form with details of:

- Forename and Surname
- National Insurance number
- Eligibility Code number

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

A child may be eligible for EYPP if that parents are in receipt of certain benefits.

- For parents who have completed the EYPP section in Part 2 of the Parental Declaration Form, full details must be entered on the Parent/Carer tab and the 'Consent to check for EYPP' box ticked on the Synergy FIS Provider Portal.

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

A child is eligible for DAF if they are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and are accessing a funded place.

- The parent will need to complete the Disability Access Fund (DAF) section in Part 2 of the Parental Declaration Form.
- A copy of the DLA Award letter **MUST** be sent using the Document tab on the Synergy FIS Provider Portal. If the DLA Award letter is not attached, the DAF Adjustment will not be accepted.
- The 'Yes' option for Eligible for DAF will need to be selected on the child's Funding tab. **DO NOT** select 'Yes' if the parent has not completed the DAF section of the Parental Declaration Form, and if a copy of the DLA Award letter has not been attached.

Checking your claim

It is the responsibility of the Early Years Setting to check the accuracy of their funding claim after the Headcount and before the end of each term.

You should review your claim using the Synergy Provider Portal and check that all children have been entered, with the correct hours, and that the weightings you are expecting have been applied.

Any changes to be made after the Headcount period must be added during the Adjustments process via the Provider Portal.

The Early Years Funding Office will not be able to make any changes to a term's Headcount claim after that term has ended.

Information

Where can I find more information?

| | *FIS Synergy Provider Portal Online Guidance | *Guidance for Early Education Funding Entitlements 2024 | *Requirements of Early Education and Childcare Funding Entitlements 2024 |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Estimates | Section 3.2 Page 15 | Page 26 | Section 2.3.4 Page 21 |
| Actual Headcount | Section 3.3 Page 18 | Page 26 | Section 2.3.4 Page 21 |
| Online adjustments | Section 6 Page 59 | Page 34 | Section 2.3.8 Page 23 |

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|---|--|---------|-----------------------|
| Universal Entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds | Section 3.4 Page 21 | Page 31 | Section 2.1.2 Page 11 |
| 2Help Funding | Section 4 Page 45 | Page 6 | Section 2.1.1 Page 10 |
| Eligibility Codes | Section 3.1 Page 11 | Page 10 | Section 2.1.3 Page 11 |
| Early Years Pupil Premium | Section 3.4 – 2, Page 24 and 5, Page 31 Section 6.5 Page 80 | Page 21 | Section 2.2.1 Page 17 |
| Disability Access Fund | Section 3.4 – 4, Page 27 and 5, Page 31 Section 6.5 Page 78 | Page 24 | Section 2.2.3 Page 18 |

***All of these documents can be found on Page 2 of the Warwickshire website under 'Guidance documents':**
Early education funding for two, three and four-year-olds – Education and Early Years providers
(warwickshire.gov.uk)

Your Information Rights

This service provides childcare funding for children attending early years placements. Our valid lawful basis for processing personal data is a legal obligation. To see how we use your personal data and what your information rights are, please read WCC's Education and Learning privacy notice. It should be read in addition to the council's overall customer privacy notice at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy which includes the contact details if you have a complaint about your information rights. For general enquiries, please contact Warwickshire County Council 's Customer Service Centre on 01926 410410.

The Privacy Notice for our service can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcarecosts.

If you have any queries regarding the funding process, please contact the Early Years Funding Team:

- By email at eyfunding@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Or telephone 01926 742233
- Or visit our website: <https://schools.warwickshire.gov.uk/early-years-childcare-providers>