

Spring Term 2025 – Termly Information Letter



This document contains **all** of the important information relevant to the process of claiming Early Years Entitlements for the Spring Term 2025.

November 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 | 02/09/2024 – 20/12/2024 - 15 weeks*** | Autumn Term – 3 rd October 2024 |
| Spring Term – 11 weeks | 06/01/2025 – 11/04/2025 – 13 weeks* | Spring Term – 16 th January 2025 |
| Summer Term – 13 weeks | 28/04/2025 – 21/07/2025 – 11 weeks** | 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.

Children Eligible for funding in the Spring Term 2025

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Working Parent Entitlement for 9 months + - 2 years old | Children born between 1 st January 2023 and 31 st March 2024 |
| Working Parent Entitlement for 2-year-olds and 2 Help (Disadvantaged) | Children born between 1 st January 2022 and 31 st December 2022 |
| Universal Entitlement and the Working Parent Entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds | Children born between 1 st January 2020 and 31 st December 2021 |

Please note: Where possible, children will be carried forward from Autumn term 2024 to Spring term 2025 and to the next funding age range where appropriate. However, it is possible that not all children's funding will be carried forward.

Synergy FIS Provider Portal

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

Dates and Rates

Important Dates and Deadlines

- 9th December 2024 - Provider Portal opens for Estimate and Actual Headcount claims. ***The 'Present During Census' box MUST be ticked for ALL children***
- 6th January 2025 - Early Years Census Form available in the Forms tab (if applicable*)
- 9th January 2025 - Submission deadline for Estimate hours
- 16th January 2025 - Headcount Day
- 24th January 2025 - Submission deadline for Actual Headcount claim
- 24th January 2025 - Submissions deadline for the Early Years Census Form
- 24th February 2025 - Online Adjustment tab open
- 14th March 2025 - Submission deadline for Online Adjustments

Payment Dates

- 17th January 2025 - 3 & 4 Year old Interim Payment
- 20th January 2025 - 2 year old Interim Payment
- 21st January 2025 - 9 months – 2 year old Interim Payment
- 7th March 2025 - 3 & 4 years old Final Payment
- 10th March 2025 - 2 year olds Final Payment
- 11th March 2025 - 9 months – 2 year olds Final Payment
- 27th March 2025 - Adjustment Payment Date

Eligibility Code dates ACCEPTED - Spring Term 2025

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

- Validity start date on or before 31st December 2024
- Validity end date on or after 6th January 2025
- *Delayed codes starting with 50 issued by 14th January 2025 where evidence is seen that the application was made before 31st December 2024
- Temporary codes starting with 11 issued by 14th January 2025
- Continuing codes in their grace period ending on or after 31st March 2025 for funding continuing at a setting, this includes a move between funding age ranges e.g. from 9 months to 2 year funding, or 2 year to 3 & 4 year old funding.

Eligibility Code dates NOT ACCEPTED - Spring Term 2025

- Codes with a validity start date on or after 1st January 2025 (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 6th January 2025.
- Codes where the Grace Period expired on 31st December 2024, with a new validity start date on or after 1st January 2025 for children funded in the previous term (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 – 2 years Expanded Working Parent Entitlement | £10.07 per hour | Deprivation Factor (DF) | 68p per hour |
| 2-year funding (2Help, and Expanded Working Parent Entitlement for 2-year-olds) | £7.39 per hour | Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) | 68p per hour |
| 3- & 4-year funding (Universal, and Extended Working Parent Entitlement for 3- & 4-year- olds) | £5.25 per hour (£5.22 base rate + £0.03 Teacher Pay and Pension Grant) | Disability Access Fund (DAF) | £910.00 paid annually |
| Maintained Nursery School Supplementary Funding paid for 3 & 4 year old Universal Entitlement hours only | £4.64 per hour | | |

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 on 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 2 year olds 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 6th January 2025.
- 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 Spring Term 2025 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 entitlements 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 the age ranges of 9 months - 2 years old, 2 years old and 3- & 4-year-olds, before a funding claim is made.
- The current and a **NEW** updated version of the PDF 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-education-funding)
- The updated form should be used for children **NEW** to funding in the Spring Term 2025.
- There is no requirement to complete the new Parental Declaration Form for children who have already completed a PDF in the Autumn Term 2024.
- The Parental Declaration Form can be completed electronically, and therefore can be emailed and downloaded by parents to complete and return to you, without using a paper copy.

Funding tasks

Estimates

9th December 2024: Provider Portal opens.

9th January 2025: Estimate Submission Deadline date.

If Estimate hours have not been submitted by this deadline date, then interim payments will **NOT** be made, and the full term's funding payment will be made at the final payment date.

- Estimate hours are added to the Provider Portal under the 'Estimates' tab.
- Estimates for the age ranges 9 months - 2 years, 2-year-olds, and 3- & 4-year-olds must be entered separately.
- Make sure the hours are entered under the correct age range as shown on page 1
- Enter the total **WEEKLY** hours for all children for each funding age range.
E.g., 3 x 9 months – 2 year claiming 15 hours per week = 45 weekly hours entered under the 9 months - 2 years funding, 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.
- New submissions will overwrite any previous submissions and will not add to them.

Actual Headcount

9th December 2024: Actual Headcount submissions can be made from the date of the Provider Portal opening.

16th January 2025: Headcount Day.

- Actual Headcount submissions are added to the Provider Portal using the 'Actuals' tab.
- Children should be added based on their attendance during the Headcount week 13th – 17th January 2025 (including children who are temporarily absent e.g., due to sickness or on holiday).
- Each child MUST have a fully completed Parental Declaration Form (PDF) (see Parental Declaration Form section for further details).
- The Present During Census box MUST be ticked for ALL children on your Actuals list.

24th January 2025: Submission deadline for Actual Headcount claim

- The Provider Portal closes for entering Actual hours and for sending DAF and EYPP supporting information added to the Documents tab (see DAF and EYPP sections for further details).
- You MUST check that all details are correct, the correct funding is being claimed for each child and that eligibility for working parent entitlements and 2Help funding has been confirmed, before the start of term.
- Make any changes or adjustments to the Headcount as necessary.
- Make sure any changes have been submitted.

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 has closed must be added to the Provider Portal using the Online Adjustments process.

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

Online Adjustments

25th February 2025: Online Adjustment tab opens

14th March 2025: Submission Deadline

- Online Adjustments are added to the Provider Portal using 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 if there are changes since the Actual Headcount submission.
- Adjustments can only be added in line with the agreed Adjustment reasons as detailed in section 2.3.11 page 24 of the Requirements of Early Education and Childcare Funding Entitlements 2024.
- Adjustments for children moving settings after the Headcount can be added to the Provider Portal only when BOTH settings have agreed the funding split and both settings have added the adjustment via the Adjustments tab.

Early Years Census 2025

The January 2025 Census is a statutory requirement for all Local Authorities to request specified data from providers concerning their childcare provision and details relating to individual children within their setting. We are responsible for reporting this information to the Department for Education (DfE).

*Schools with funded on-site early years provision make their return via either the school census or the early years census, but not both.

Registered pupils of a school (within the age range of the school)

- Enter these children on the school census.

Children who attend a separate Ofsted-registered private, voluntary, or independent provider on a school site

- Enter these children on the Early Years Census

Children attending provision provided by a school governing body under [Section 27 of the Education Act 2002](#) or provision that is run or managed by an academy or academy trust under charitable objectives

- Enter registered pupils of the school on the school census.
- Enter children who are not registered pupils of the school on the Early Years Census.

Children entered on the Early Years Census IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS

- The Census child data is taken from the Spring term Headcount for all funded children under the funding age ranges of 9 months – 2 year old, 2 year olds and 3 & 4 year olds.
- All children present during the Headcount period must be included.
- The Present During Census box **MUST** be ticked for each child on your Headcount for children to be included in your Early Years Census return and receive funding.
- The child's Ethnicity **MUST** be completed in line with the information entered on the Parental Declaration Form. This section is mandatory for the parent to complete.
- The child's Special Educational Need status **MUST** be completed.

- The Census Form for the setting details **MUST** be completed in respect of all funded and non-funded 9 months – 2 years old, 2 year olds and 3 & 4 year olds in attendance during the Census period, 13th – 17th January 2025, including children who are not attending due to sickness or on holiday.

Guidance on how to complete the Early Years Census

For details on how the Early years Census should be completed, please refer to:

Page 35 of the [Guidance for Early Education and Childcare Funding Entitlements 2024](#)

And

Page 85 of the [Access Synergy FIS Provider Portal Online Funding Guidance](#)

Your final payment will be delayed if we have not received your Census return for the Spring term 2025 by the submission deadline date.

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.
- Do NOT enter a claim for the Disadvantaged (2 Help) funding unless confirmation has been seen.
- 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

To claim the Working Parent Entitlement for their child, parents must complete the Working Parent Expanded 15 hours entitlement for 9 months – 2 years old and 2 year olds, or the Working Parent Extended 15 hours entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds section 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.
- Parents may not be aware that they are eligible, therefore we would advise all providers to request that all parents complete this section.

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.
- If a child is in receipt of the 2Help Funded Entitlement due to being in receipt of DLA, DAF will be paid automatically to the provider (for children starting from Spring term 2025).

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 |
| 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 |
| Early Years Census | Section 7.1, Page 86 | Page 35 | Section 2.3.15 Page 27 |

***All of these documents can be found on Page 2 of the Warwickshire website under 'Guidance documents': www.warwickshire.gov.uk Early education funding for two, three and four-year-olds – Education and Early Years providers ([warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.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 01926742233
- Or visit our website: <https://schools.warwickshire.gov.uk/early-years-childcare-providers>