

EARLY EDUCATION

Early Years Pupil Premium – Frequently Asked Questions

This document is part of a suite of documents currently available from Norfolk County Council to support the use of Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

The purpose of this Frequently Asked Question document is to offer a quick guide to the most commonly asked questions. The responses have been sourced from Department for Education (DfE) publications and other questions / responses collated following leaders and managers briefing sessions held across Norfolk.

Other resources are available online at – www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/earlyeducation

PLEASE NOTE:

Where there is reference to the term ‘provider’ it refers to - childminders, private, voluntary & independent providers, schools and academies.

Q1	Which children are eligible for EYPP?															
	A child must be in receipt of 3&4 Year Old Early Education funding and meet at least 1 of the criteria set out in the Operation Guidance published by the Department for Education.															
Q2	How much funding will a provider receive for EYPP?															
	Providers will receive the national rate of £0.53 per hour															
Q3	How is the funding payment calculated?															
	<p>For every eligible child – Total number of hours the Local Authority has paid for 3&4-year-old EE multiplied by £0.53 Example:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Claim Period</th> <th>3&4 EE hours</th> <th>£ Total Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Autumn</td> <td>210 hours x £0.53</td> <td>£111.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spring</td> <td>159 hours x £0.53</td> <td>£84.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Summer</td> <td>201 hours x £0.53</td> <td>£106.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>570 hours x £0.53</td> <td>£302.10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Claim Period	3&4 EE hours	£ Total Payment	Autumn	210 hours x £0.53	£111.30	Spring	159 hours x £0.53	£84.27	Summer	201 hours x £0.53	£106.53	TOTAL	570 hours x £0.53	£302.10
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Q4	When is EYPP paid to providers?
	The funding is paid to providers as an estimate at the start of the claim period. The estimate is determined by the Local Authority and is based on the previous claim. Once the 3&4-year-old EE hours have been finalised and all checks are complete a balance will be paid at the end of the claim period. Please refer to the payment schedule .
Q5	Do children have to access their full Early Education Entitlement (i.e. 570 hours) to be eligible for the EYPP?
	Children do not have to access their full entitlement in order to be eligible for EYPP. Providers will receive EYPP funding that is proportionate to the number of hours that a child is taking up.
Q6	Who can claim EYPP?
	All providers that offer 3&4-Year-Old Early Education are eligible to claim EYPP.
Q7	Does the Ofsted Judgement determine whether a provider can claim EYPP?
	No, unless 3&4-year-old EE funding has been withdrawn because the judgement is “Inadequate”. For further information about how your Ofsted judgement could affect your funding, please refer to the current statutory guidance relating to Early Education and Childcare.
Q8	When do children start to be eligible for EYPP?
	Children will be eligible for EYPP as soon as they are entitled to access their 3&4-year-old EE place. However, children will become eligible at different points in the year depending on when they turn 3. More information about the Early Education offer and the dates when children become eligible is available at www.gov.uk/free-early-education Children who are eligible for the early education funding and attend a reception class in an academy or maintained primary school are not eligible for EYPP. These children will however be eligible for the school age pupil premium.

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Q9	How will I know which children are eligible for EYPP?
	<p>Providers will be required to collect certain information from parents/carers and seek consent to share this information with the Local Authority so that an eligibility check can be actioned. This information will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parent/carer national insurance number • for asylum seeking children, providers will need the parents National Asylum Support Service Number (NASS) • parent/carer surname • parent/carer date of birth <p>and, where applicable evidence to confirm –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has been adopted from Local-Authority care • has left care through a special guardianship order • is subject to a child arrangement order <p>In Norfolk, initially providers will use the parent/carer claim form to collect the information needed to request an eligibility check. This information is then transferred to the online system known as the Provider Portal via the funding module.</p> <p>To support you in the use of the Portal, user guidance is available at: www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/earlyeducation or 01603 222300 - 2.</p> <p>Once the eligibility check has been performed those that are confirmed as eligible will be denoted on the child record displayed in the portal.</p>
Q10	What is used by the Local Authority to determine EYPP eligibility?
	<p>A service provided by the Department for Education called the Eligibility Checking System (ECS) is used by the Early Years Finance Team to check the details of those that may meet the benefit criteria.</p> <p>For those children that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been adopted from Local-Authority care • have left care through a special guardianship order • are subject to a child arrangements order <p>it is not possible to use the ECS. Instead, parents, adoptive parents or guardians may have to provide evidence of the court order that proves that the child was formally in Local-Authority care in either England or Wales. This documentation</p>

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	<p>must be sent confidentially to the Early Years Finance Team. Please contact them on 01603 222300 - 2 for further advice.</p> <p>Children that are currently being looked after by a Local Authority in England or Wales will be identified by the Virtual School Head as eligible for EYPP. If a setting is aware that a child meets this criteria, this detail should be logged as part of the child record (notes) on the portal so that the Early Years Finance Team can verify the details prior to payment.</p> <p>Further information is available at www.gov.uk.</p>
Q11	How often is an eligibility check performed?
	<p>An eligibility check will be completed when a parent or provider supplies the required information to the Local Authority and eligibility has not been proven.</p> <p>When EYPP funding is paid, the child they will not lose this funding whilst taking up their early education entitlement because once the outcome of a check is successful, no more further checks will take place.</p>
Q12	Which parent/carer do we get the information from for an eligibility check to be carried out?
	It is recommended to submit the details of the parent/carer who is most likely to meet the eligibility criteria (i.e. the named person in receipt of the benefit).
Q13	If a child is currently eligible for 2-Year-Old funding, will they automatically be eligible for EYPP when they turn 3?
	No, the eligibility criteria is different. EYPP is focused on the most disadvantaged children. The eligibility criteria for EYPP is targeted at 3&4-year-olds from economically disadvantaged households and those children who are in or have been in care. An eligibility check will need to be carried out when the child turns 3 to determine whether the family meet the criteria specifically for EYPP, regardless of whether the child was eligible for 2-year-old funding.
Q14	Will a child with Special educational needs (SEN) be eligible?
	A child with SEN will only be eligible if the family meet one of the criteria in question 1.

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Q15	Can EYPP be split across a number of childcare providers?
	Yes, just the same as the 15 hours Early Education funding, EYPP can be split over more than one provider.
Q16	What happens if a provider does not claim EYPP?
	It is not mandatory to claim EYPP as parents/carers may decide that they do not wish to disclose their personal details for the eligibility check. However, where children attend more than one provider and only one claims the funding, the Local Authority will pay both providers if eligibility is confirmed.
Q17	Is the entitlement of Early Education affected if EYPP is not claimed?
	No, free Early Education (up to 570 hours) is available to all 3&4 Year Old children living in England as per the statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education.
Q18	Can I claim EYPP for a child that does not live in Norfolk?
	Yes, the Local Authority is responsible for checking their eligibility and funding the EYPP, for all children attending a Norfolk setting.
Q19	Will the EYPP funding follow the child should they change provider?
	The EYPP guidance provided to Local Authorities by the DfE makes it clear that funding will follow the child, therefore there are no exceptional circumstances attached to the EYPP element of the funded entitlement. This means that if a child moves to a different provider during the year, Local Authorities should determine the allocation of EYPP that is proportionate to the number of hours of Early Education that a child takes up at the new provider.
Q20	What happens if a child remains in the Early Years provision rather than joining a school reception class? Are they still eligible for EYPP?
	If a child is still receiving their early education entitlement (i.e. 15 hours) and they meet the EYPP criteria they would still be eligible for the funding.
Q21	Will providers receive a full years funding for the child in one lump sum?
	No, the EYPP payment will be received as part of the funded Early Education Entitlement funding paid each claim period in arrears. It will be calculated on the total number of funded hours for each eligible child at £0.53 per hour.

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Q22	Will Local Authorities withhold any of the EYPP funding?
	No, the EYPP is set at a national hourly rate. Local Authorities have no flexibility in determining the core groups of eligible children, nor do they have any flexibility to vary the amount per child.
Q23	Is the hourly rate the same for looked after children?
	Yes, in Norfolk the Local Authority has agreed to pass on the full amount of EYPP to their providers.
Q24	Is there any monitoring of the funding provided for looked after children?
	<p>Yes, the Local Authority will make sure that schools, non-mainstream settings and early years providers spend the EYPP funding to help meet the needs identified in the children's personal education plans (PEPs)</p> <p>The Norfolk Virtual School for Children in Care can be contacted on 01603 307742 for further advice and guidance.</p>
Q25	Who will providers be accountable to for the use of their EYPP funding?
	<p>The Department for Education is clear that providers will be expected to evidence outcomes as a result of the additional funding allocated and this will be assessed as part of the Ofsted Inspection.</p> <p>Providers will need to track the progress of children so impact can be measured. This will be reported as part of the leadership and management judgement within the inspection.</p>
Q26	How can providers make a difference and maximise the use of EYPP funding?
	<p>Individually or collectively providers must decide how to utilise the EYPP to ensure the very best outcomes for the children in their care.</p> <p>When making decisions about how to use the EYPP funding, providers should use relevant research / evidence and consider what they already know from good early years pedagogy on what works well in improving quality in early years.</p> <p>It will be necessary to maximise the effectiveness of this additional funding to improve children's outcomes and to boost disadvantaged children's achievement to 'narrow the gap'. Providers should consider the use of EYPP in the context of</p>

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	<p>attainment, progress, needs and impact.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council has produced some guidance to assist providers to decide how best to use the funding to improve outcomes. The guidance ‘Support the Use of Early Years Pupil Premium’ is available online together with case studies which describe existing good practice already implemented in Norfolk.</p> <p>Other national information/material is also available online. Eg. Foundation Years The National Children's Bureau Education Endowment Foundation</p>
Q27	What does the term “narrow the gap” mean?
	<p>This term is often used by DfE.</p> <p>It means closing the attainment gap between the most disadvantaged children and their peers.</p>