

EARLY EDUCATION

Early Years Pupil Premium

In June 2014, the Government consulted on Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and funding for two year olds. The consultation sought the views on extending the existing pupil premium received by schools into early years, to support the early education of disadvantaged three and four year olds. The results were published in October 2014, with the majority of respondents welcoming the proposal to introduce an EYPP.

In Norfolk, the EYPP will be available to early years providers offering 3 and 4 year old early education funding to eligible children from April 2015. The premium is additional funding to improve the provision that disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds receive.

Norfolk's initial allocation for the financial year 2015/16 is £638,418. This equates to 53p per funded hour claimed for an eligible child. The Government has based this allocation on an estimate of the total number of hours eligible children will take up.

The Local Authority (LA) cannot –

- hold back any of this funding allocation
- vary the funding rate
- place conditions on the funding

The payment to providers will be calculated on the number of funded hours claimed at the national rate of 0.53p for every eligible child. This means a provider could receive additional funding up to £302 per child (570 hours x 0.53p = £302).

Eligibility

To receive the premium a child must be in receipt of 3 and 4 year old early education funding and meet at least 1 of the following criteria:

- their family gets 1 of the following:
 - [Income Support](#)
 - income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#)
 - income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
 - support under [part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
 - the guaranteed element of [State Pension Credit](#)
 - [Child Tax Credit](#) (provided they're not also entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
 - [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
 - [Universal Credit](#)
- they have been looked after for 1 day or more
- they have been adopted from care
- they have left care under a special guardianship order or residence order

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Which children are eligible?

The LA will be responsible for checking that individual children meet the eligibility criteria for EYPP. To determine eligibility from 1st April 2015, the Parent/Carer Claim form will request the following additional information –

- National Insurance Number / NASS Number
- Parent/Carer Date of Birth
- Parent/Carer Surname
- Criteria that has been identified as being met

Once this information has been collected, providers will need to inform the LA so that relevant checks can take place. The process of informing the LA has yet to be finalised. Further information will be shared as soon as possible.

Frequency of eligibility checks for EYPP

Eligibility checks for EYPP will be carried out once a year. In most cases this will be twice during the period that a child is eligible to receive 3 and 4 year old early education funding.

1. The first check will be when the initial eligibility is confirmed
2. The second check will be in the September of the academic year the child turns 4 (If a child becomes eligible when they are already 4 years old, a second check will not be needed)

If consent is received from parent/carers, a further check will take place to support the process to establish eligibility for School Pupil Premium.

Ofsted

During the first year of the EYPP, Ofsted will look for evidence that providers understand and are planning to meet the needs of disadvantaged children.

Providers will have the freedom to determine how to use the funding, however Ofsted will be updating their inspection framework so that the effective use and impact of the EYPP can be assessed under the leadership and management judgement. To make this judgement, Ofsted will want to see evidence that a provider has considered how best to invest EYPP funding, how they expect to determine if the money improves a child's outcomes over the short and/or long term and any evidence available on impact already achieved.

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The provider self-evaluation framework will also be updated to include questions on the approach that providers are taking in using the EYPP, in areas such as –

- how they are making use of the money
- which children they are targeting the money on
- how children’s outcomes are improving under the Early Years Foundation Stage

There will also be questions on these areas during an inspection.

Where a provider is not able to supply this evidence their inspection judgement for the leadership and management judgement may be lowered, and inspectors will make recommendations on how the provider can improve.

What happens next?

It is recommended that providers begin to speak with parent/carers to advise them of the EYPP, so that they are aware that this funding is available to improve provision for their children.

Further guidance will be issued to providers as more information becomes available to the LA and we have finalised the “how to claim” process.

Information available via Gov.uk –

- [Early years pupil premium: guide for local authorities](#)
- [Early years pupil premium and funding for 2-year-olds](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact:



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