

Early Years Free Entitlement Expansion: Timeline

Date	Activity
29 November 2023	<p>Department for Education (DfE) to publish a response to the funding consultation alongside the funding rates that will be paid to Local Authorities. This funding is called the Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).</p> <p>Please note, the rates published will be higher than what you are paid as a base rate. The local authority allocations reflect the average hourly rate across the overall pot, which includes inclusion funding, deprivation funding and the funding required for the administration of the scheme.</p>
November/December 2023	<p>Based on information provided by the DfE, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) will now carry out financial modelling to be able to calculate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding base rates • Inclusion funding • Deprivation funding • Centrally retained funding <p>To give you an understanding of how this currently works, you can watch this short video that explains how this is done and why the rates the DfE pay to the local authority do not match the rates you are paid in terms of a base rate.</p> <p>Essentially the overall fund must include the bullet points above so by increasing one element, this will in turn decrease another.</p> <p>The guidance local authorities must follow is Early education and childcare - Statutory guidance for local authorities.</p>
Monday 1 January 2024 *	Updated version of Early education and childcare - Statutory Guidance for local authorities to be published on gov.uk.
Tuesday 2 January 2024 *	Parents can apply for eligibility codes for the new 2 year old offer via Childcare Choices .
Thursday 11 January 2024	Papers to include proposed funding formula and Free Entitlement rates will be written by the local authority and submitted to Schools Forum by Thursday 11 January 2024. Prior to the meeting these papers will be available here West Sussex Schools Forum . The paper relating to the funding rates will be under Early Years DSG.
Thursday 18 January 2024	<p>Schools Forum Meeting 4.30pm to 6.30pm.</p> <p>Proposed rates and funding formula to be presented and agreed. Once agreed the meeting minutes will also be published on West Sussex Schools Forum. These will include a summary of any discussions/questions relating to this.</p> <p>There are two Early Years Representatives who sit on this panel, plus the heads of the Maintained Nursery Schools. These are Sharon Moody (Kids Capers) and Claire Kenyon (Busy Lizzie's). Please do share your views with the representatives who will be able to comment on behalf of the sector at the meeting.</p>
Week commencing: 22 January 2024	Communication to be sent to providers from WSCC to confirm the funding rates for 2024/2025 via newsletter email.
Week commencing: 29 January 2024 note – the expansion will be the focus of the EYFS leader networks in the Spring term.	<p>Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Leader Networks: Childcare Expansion Briefing</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the new statutory guidance and implications in West Sussex. • Feedback from the provider survey, including actions taken/planned as a result. • Opportunity to discuss and share challenges and opportunities with other settings. <p>Please book on the Learning and Development Gateway.</p>
Sunday 31 March 2024	Deadline for eligibility codes for working family entitlements for the Summer term 2024 (new 2 year old 15 hour offer and existing 30 hours for 3 and 4 year olds).
Summer Term 2024	Eligible 2 year olds can access up to 15 hours in participating settings.

* These dates have been provided by the DfE as indicative only, subject to ongoing policy development