

Early Years and Childcare Expansion: Timeline

Our vision and strategic priorities for Early Years and Childcare in West Sussex are set out in the [Right From The Start: West Sussex Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2024 to 2027](#)



Date	Activity
1 September 2024	<p>Early Years Funded Entitlement Eligible nine month olds can access up to 15 hours of Early Years Funded Entitlement in participating settings.</p> <p>Wraparound Wraparound Childcare Programme 2024-2026 commences with the expansion or creation of new provision, supporting families by providing extended childcare services beyond regular school hours. Wraparound Childcare Programme Funding open for providers to apply.</p>
23 September 2024	<p>Breakfast Clubs DfE published information on the Breakfast club early adopters scheme inviting schools to express interest in taking part. DfE expected to provide further information in the second half of the autumn term 2024.</p>
8 October 2024	<p>Early Years and Childcare / Wraparound Early Years and Childcare Providers invited to submit a formal application (following review of expressions of interest) for Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Funding.</p>
16 October 2024	<p>Early Years and Childcare The EYFS statutory frameworks updated providing clarification for childminders working both with and without domestic premises and clarified the qualification requirements for staff counting in the level 6 staff:child ratios.</p>
17 October 2024	<p>School Based Nurseries DfE announced the launch of the first round of capital funding for school-based nurseries as the first stage of the government’s plan to deliver 3,000 school-based nurseries. Funding will be available to projects that are school-run or delivered by private and voluntary providers or childminders. The DfE expect funding to be allocated to successful schools in spring 2025 to support delivery for the first cohort of places for the September rollout.</p>
22 October 2024	<p>Early Years Funded Entitlement Early Years Funded Entitlement payment consultation (stage 2) went live. This is mandatory for all private, voluntary and independent providers to gain your views on the two options being presented. There will be no changes to how maintained nursery schools and classes are paid and are not required to complete this survey.</p>
November/December 2024	<p>Early Years Funded Entitlement DfE due to announce Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant funding allocations which will enable West Sussex County Council (WSSC) to carry out financial modelling to be able to calculate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Funded Entitlement base rates • Inclusion funding • Deprivation funding • Centrally retained funding <p>Essentially the overall fund must include the bullet points above so by increasing one element, this will in turn decrease another. The guidance local authorities must follow is Early education and childcare - Statutory guidance for local authorities.</p>
1 November 2024	<p>Early Years and Childcare Introduction of new flexibilities for childminders to help more childminders join</p>

	and stay in the profession, opening childminding to more people, and help support the rollout of expanded childcare entitlements.
15 November 2024	Early Years and Wraparound Deadline for Childcare Expansion Capital Grant applications from invited providers.
8 December 2024	Early Years Funded Entitlement Early Years Funded Entitlement payments consultation (stage 2) closes.
19 December 2024	School Based Nurseries Deadline for applications for School Based Nurseries Capital Grant funding.
Tuesday 31 December 2024	Early Years Funded Entitlements Deadline for eligibility codes for working family entitlements for the Spring term 2025.
January 2025	Early Years and Childcare Updated version of Early education and childcare - Statutory Guidance for local authorities expected to be published on gov.uk. Date to be confirmed. The DfE have indicated this publication will provide further clarity on charging.
Thursday 9 January 2025	Early Years Funded Entitlement Papers to include proposed funding formula and Early Years Funded Entitlement rates will be written by the local authority and submitted to Schools Forum by Thursday 9 January 2025. 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 16 January 2025	Early Years Funded Entitlement Schools Forum Meeting 4.30pm to 6.30pm. 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. 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.
Week commencing: 20 January 2025	Early Years Funded Entitlement If approved at Schools Forum communication to be sent to providers from WSCC to confirm the funding rates for 2025/2026 via newsletter email. Department for Education confirm deadline for local authorities to communicate funding rates to providers is 28 February 2025.
3 March 2025	Wraparound Deadline for Wraparound Childcare Programme Funding applications.
Monday 31 March 2025	Early Years Funded Entitlement Deadline for eligibility codes for working family entitlements for the summer term 2025.
April 2025	Breakfast Clubs Breakfast club early adopters scheme due to launch in summer term 2025.
1 September 2025	Early Years Funded Entitlement Eligible working parents of children from the age of nine months can access up to 30 hours of Early Years Funded Entitlement in participating settings. Wraparound All places created by the Wraparound Childcare Programme Funding are in place. School Based Nurseries School Based Nurseries Capital Grant projects (phase one) aim to be operational.

Dates have been provided by West Sussex County Council / Department for Education as indicative only, subject to further guidance and ongoing policy development.