



Early Years Funding Information

The Government currently offers a number of schemes to help with childcare costs for parents.

Tax-Free Childcare/National Savings

- For working families, including the self-employed, in the UK with children under 12 (or under 17 if disabled).
- For every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year.
- Can be used to pay for after school clubs.
- Can be used to pay for school fees for children under 5 (end of first term following 5th birthday).
- <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

15 hours free childcare entitlement (minimum 6 sessions per week)

- For all families in England with 3 and 4-year-old children (April 24 this will be extended to 2-year olds provided that they are eligible).
- 15 hours of free childcare or early education for 38 weeks.
- A total of 570 hours per year, that you can use flexibly with one or more childcare provider.
- Children are entitled to **15 hours free childcare** from the term after they turn 3 until they reach compulsory school **age**, the term following their 5th birthday.
- Children must attend 6 sessions or more to receive the 15 hours entitlement and you will be charged pro rata for the term's fees (60%) less the funding amount, which varies according to the number of weeks in the term.
- Parents seeking 2-year old funding are required to reconfirm their eligibility on a termly basis. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure they complete their reconfirmation check online. Once the code has been activated online, HMRC will notify parents of the need to reconfirm and will provide mechanisms for reconfirmation. Failure to do so will result in funding not being received by Slough and therefore it will not be deductible from your invoice.

30 hours free childcare if eligible (minimum 10 sessions per week)

- For working families in England with 3 and 4-year-old children (September 25 this will be extended to 2-year olds).
- 30 hours of free childcare or early education for 38 weeks.
- A total of 1,140 hours per year, that you can use flexibly with one or more childcare provider.
- Children are eligible for **30 hours free childcare** from the term after they turn 3 until they reach compulsory school **age**, the term following their 5th birthday.
- Children at St Bernard's must attend full time, which is 37.5hrs/week (10 sessions) to receive 30 hours funding and you will be charged for the term's fees less the funding amount, which varies according to the number of weeks in the term.
- Parents are required to reconfirm their eligibility on a termly basis. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure they complete their reconfirmation check online. Once the code has been activated online, HMRC will notify parents of the need to reconfirm and will provide mechanisms for reconfirmation. Failure to do so will result in funding not being received by Slough and therefore it will not be deductible from your invoice.

Childcare vouchers

Care provided by the governing body of a school is approved if it takes place:

- Outside normal school hours (this means the normal hours of compulsory education adopted by the school as appropriate for the age of the child), or
- On school premises, or
- On premises that are covered by the inspection of the whole school activity by Ofsted or the equivalent inspection body for certain independent schools

This means that in terms of private education this would only apply to children under 5 (end of first term following 5th birthday).

Can childcare vouchers be used for private education fees?

Childcare vouchers must not be used to pay for private education, except for terms which start before the child reaches age 5. Payments to pre-school childcare providers which are attached to private schools are permitted.

Are childcare vouchers stopping?

Unfortunately, the Government closed the Childcare Vouchers scheme to new entrants on 4th October 2018. This means that if you're a parent looking to join Childcare Vouchers for the first time that option is no longer available to you. This is because the Government launched a new scheme called Tax-Free Childcare.

For further information regarding the options available to you please see the following websites.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>