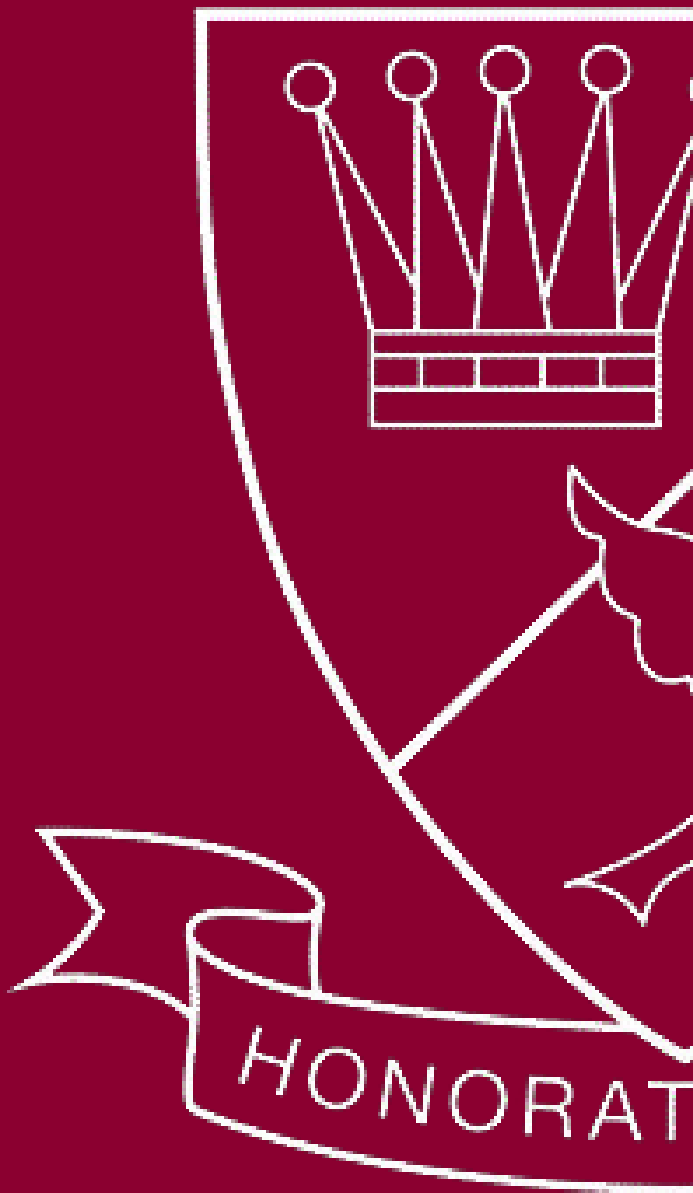


KING'S SCHOOL & NURSERY

EARLY YEARS
FUNDING
2026 – 2027



EARLY YEARS FUNDING AT KING'S SCHOOL & NURSERY 2026 - 2027



This guide to Early Years Funding is designed to answer some of the most asked questions about the scheme and explain how it is applied in our setting.

There are some important points you need to be aware of regarding the scheme;

- With the exception of 15 hours funding for 3+ children, all other funding entitlements are **eligibility dependant** (30 hours from 9months – 3 years and the additional 15 hours for 3+). **Please check your eligibility** www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/check-youre-eligible .
- The widely advertised 15/30 hours of funded childcare is provided for 38 weeks per year in line with school terms. **Our Nursery (Emerald/Ruby/Sapphire/Diamond)** is open all year round other than Christmas, Bank Holidays and inset days. To spread the available funding evenly over the year, **we follow Plymouth City Council's stretched offer of providing 12/24 hours per week over 47.5 weeks (6 hours per day)**. The total entitlement is identical to the 15/30 hours of funding for 38 weeks.
- **Foundation is term time only**, so we follow the 15/30 hours for 38 weeks model (6 hours per day). Foundation stage is invoiced at the beginning of each term (not monthly). Termly bills can also be paid using Tax-Free Childcare.
- Funded hours do not cover meals and additional activities such as forest school. We provide these items at an optional additional cost which is explained in detail below. **Please be aware we require a terms notice to change options e.g. opting in or out of lunches and wraparound care. This notice is given on the early years funding form which must be completed each term.**
- For eligibility dependant hours, **you must provide an eligible funding code** from the government childcare portal. **You must renew this regularly** and ensure it is in date **BEFORE** the start of each term. We are unable to do this, and it is **your responsibility to manage this**. You will be sent an Early Years Funding form before the beginning of each term. **If you do not complete and return the form by the required deadline, you will not receive Early Years Funding.** Expired codes are invalid and not accepted by Plymouth City Council meaning you will not receive Early Years Funding.

	30 hrs – 9months+	15 / 30 hrs – 3 Years+	Tax-Free Childcare
Eligibility	<p>30 hours of funded childcare for <u>eligible working parents</u> please check your eligibility www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/check-youre-eligible</p>	<p>15 hours of funded childcare for all 3 year olds plus 15 hours of funded childcare for <u>eligible working parents</u></p>	<p>Available to working families earning less than £100,000 per year. TFC can be used to pay for all nursery fees and Foundation. TFC can also be used for holiday club and wraparound care throughout school (this must be booked and paid for in advance on Cognita Connect)</p>
Exclusions	<p>Early Years Funding does not cover the costs of meals, additional hours or additional activities such as trips. We ask parents to pay for these additional services, which is explained in more detail below</p>	<p>Early Years Funding does not cover the costs of meals, additional hours or additional activities such as trips. We ask parents to pay for these additional services, which is explained in more detail below</p>	<p>Cannot be used in conjunction with universal credit, tax credits or childcare vouchers.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare</p>
Allocation	<p><u>Nursery (Emerald/Sapphire/Ruby/Diamond)</u></p> <p>Autumn Term stretched over September – December (12/18/24 hours per week for 16 weeks – 6 hours a day)</p> <p>Spring Term stretched over January – March (12/18/24 hours per week for 12 weeks – 6 hours per day)</p> <p>Summer Term stretched over April – July (12/18/24 hours per week for 19.5 weeks – 6 hours per day)</p> <p>Diamond (3+) – is applied the same as nursery, stretched funding 6 hours per day 12/18/24 hrs per week</p> <p><u>Foundation</u></p> <p>Standard funding – 6 hours per day, up to 30 hours per week term time only (Autumn 14 weeks, Spring 11.5 weeks & Summer 11 weeks). Holiday care is available through Cognita Connect at £46.00 per day</p>		

WHEN DOES ELIGIBILITY START?

9 MONTHS +

Child's date of birth between	Eligible for 9m+ funding from
1 st September – 31 st December	Autumn term after child turns 9 months old until the end of the Autumn term they turn 3 years old
1 st January – 31 st March	Spring term after child turns 9 months old until the end of the Spring term they turn 3 years old
1 st April – 31 st August	Summer term after child turns 9 months old until the end of the Summer term they turn 3 years old

3 YEARS +

Child's turning 3 between	Funding and daily fee changes to 3+ rate from
1 st September – 31 st December	Spring term after child turns 3 years old until they start Reception
1 st January – 31 st March	Summer term after child turns 3 years old until they start Reception
1 st April – 31 st August	Autumn term after child turns 3 years old until they start Reception

FUNDING WHEN YOUR CHILD STARTS SCHOOL

- Early Years Funding is not available for Reception (as this is compulsory education)
- Tax-Free Childcare cannot be used to pay for school fees from Reception onwards
- Tax Free Childcare CAN be used to pay for holiday club, afterschool or preschool clubs once your child starts in Reception class through to Year 6

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

NEW INVOICE & DAILY RATE BREAKDOWN

DAILY CHARGES

A day in Nursery or Foundation is 10 hours (8am – 6pm)

	Free Entitlement Hours	Wraparound Charge Per Day	Additional Specialist Tuition	Lunch Fee Per Day	Total Daily Cost
Nursery 9 months +	6	£29.35	-	£2.75	£32.10
Nursery 3 years +	6	£34.75	-	£2.75	£37.50
Foundation	6	£36.25	£7.00*	£3.75	£40

*Foundation only has an additional specialist tuition fee (daily forest school).

This is £7.00 per day or provided free if you are purchasing the wraparound care bundle.

FREE ENTITLEMENT HOURS

Setting	Free Entitlement Hours	Wraparound Bundle
Nursery	09:30–15:30	08:00–9:30 & 15:30–18:00
Foundation	09:30–15:30	08:00–9:30 & 15:30–18:00

YOUR NEW INVOICE

You will not be charged for the funded 6 hours per day. Invoices will include a breakdown of what fees are included in addition to the free entitlement hours. Morning and afternoon wraparound care is charged as one bundle, this is optional and not required to access free hours.

Example – based on 3 days for under 3years old, in a month where there are 4 full weeks

Free Entitlement Hours per week 18 (This will always be no charge)	£ -
Wraparound sessions purchased (1 session is 4 hours per day) = 12 (The number of days you have opted to pay for wraparound care)	£385.20
Lunches purchased £2.75 each = 12 (The number of lunches you have opted to pay for)	£33.00

WEEKLY CHARGES & HOW FUNDING IS APPLIED

The optional wrap-around fee, lunch cost and any additional specialist tuition fees are daily charges applied in addition to your free entitlement of funded hours. In accordance with your contract, one term's notice is required to make any changes to your selected charge options. You must confirm your choices before the end of a term for these changes to take effect at the start of the following term.

Please note: Nursery fees are billed monthly, and your total invoice will vary each month to reflect the number of calendar days in that month. This means your monthly invoice amount will fluctuate.

WEEKLY CHARGES

	Days	Funded Hours Per Week (no charge)	Wraparound Charge Total	Additional Specialist Tuition	Lunch Fee Per Day	Total Weekly Cost
Nursery 9m+	2	12	£58.70	-	£2.75	£64.20
Nursery 3y+	2	12	£69.50	-	£2.75	£75.00
Foundation	2	12	£72.50	£7.00	£3.75	£80.00
Nursery 9m+	3	18	£88.05	-	£2.75	£96.30
Nursery 3y+	3	18	£104.25	-	£2.75	£112.50
Foundation	3	18	£108.75	£7.00	£3.75	£120.00
Nursery 9m+	4	24	£117.40	-	£2.75	£128.40
Nursery 3y+	4	24	£139.00	-	£2.75	£150.00
Foundation	4	24	£145.00	£7.00	£3.75	£160.00
Nursery 9m+	5	24	£117.40	-	£2.75	£182.00*
Nursery 3y+	5	24	£139.00	-	£2.75	£196.84*
Foundation	5	30	£181.25	£7.00	£3.75	£190.94**

*Includes additional full day fee and 5% discount full time rate

**Includes Full time termly discount 5% already deducted.

WRAPAROUND CARE BUNDLE & UNPLANNED CHARGES



WHY DO I HAVE TO BUY WRAPAROUND CARE AS A BUNDLE?

King's is much more than a childcare facility. We take great pride in providing an outstanding, nurturing, and engaging environment for our children—one that supports families and is there when parents need us most. Our nursery lays the foundation for an exceptional learning journey and ensures a smooth transition into our outstanding school.

To maintain the highest standards of care, it is a legal requirement that our nursery remains appropriately staffed at all times. We do not use zero-hours contracts, as we believe in compensating our staff fairly and consistently.

This means we must ensure continuous cover between 8:00am and 6:00pm each day, both to meet legal obligations and to uphold our commitment to families. As parents, you can rely on us to provide high-quality childcare throughout these hours on every day your child attends.

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UNPLANNED CHARGES

If you have chosen not to use any of the services listed above but later decide to make use of them, you will be invoiced for these in arrears through the invoicing system. Payment terms will follow the same schedule as nursery fees. Please note that failure to make payment may result in your child's nursery place being withdrawn.

Examples of when additional charges will apply include:

- You request for your child to take part in a service or activity that has not been pre-paid (for example, requesting an additional activity on the day).
- You have opted out of nursery lunches but do not provide your child with a packed lunch option.
- You provide a packed lunch that does not comply with our Packed Lunch Policy (for example, it contains nuts).
- Your child attends the setting outside of their funded entitlement hours.

Please note that any additional attendance can only be accommodated if there is available capacity, as we must adhere to strict childcare ratios. If we are at full capacity, we will be unable to accept your child during these additional hours.

Repeated late collections that have not been pre-paid or agreed in advance may also result in your child's nursery place being withdrawn, following the appropriate notice period.