



THE EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENT FUNDING POLICY 2025/26

So that all our families are able to access our provision we have agreed to adopt and work in Partnership with the Somerset Code of Practice for Early Years.

Entitlements

The early years entitlements for 38 weeks of the year (equivalent to a maximum of 570 hours a year) are:

- 30 hours per week entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months to 2 years old
- 30 hours per week entitlement for eligible working parents of 2-year-old children
- 30 hours per week entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
- universal 15 hours per week entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds
- additional 15 hours per week entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds

These can be accessed in our setting throughout 50 weeks of the year. This offer affords you more flexibility and aims to support a working family life.

There is no minimum entitlement per day but the maximum hours per week that may be claimed is 30 hours for qualifying nine-month-olds to two-year-olds and 15 hours for all three and four year olds. For those families qualifying for the additional three and four year old entitlement, the maximum amount of hours which can be claimed each week is 30.

Our Nursery model is sessional, and the free funding can be accessed from 7.30am until 5.45pm, up to a maximum of 10 hours per day.

Taunton School Pre-Prep and Nursery are able to pass on the Early Years Funding Formula base rate. This is your free funding entitlement, free to all parents at the point of delivery. This funding covers the care of your children and delivery of the Early Years Framework. It does not cover meals and snacks or specialist lessons, events and activities.

On a funded day in all nursery rooms, there will be a daily charge of £4 for all snacks and meals. If you wish to opt out of this, you will need to provide two snacks and a lunchtime meal for your child each day. *N.B. On a day with no funding, this is included in our day rate.*

When your child joins Nursery 3, they will be able to experience some of our specialist events and activities and experience the specialist teaching on offer at Taunton School Pre-prep and Nursery. This is our Taunton School Nursery Exceptional offer and will include swimming lessons (once toilet trained), dance lessons, music lessons, cooking and Forest School. In the term your child reaches 3 years of age, you will need to decide whether you wish for them to continue accessing specialist lessons, events and activities in the following term (for which there is a prorated daily charge) or whether you wish to opt out of this and only receive the standard Early Years curriculum. When making this decision, it is opting in for access to all specialist lessons, events and activities or opting out and therefore not accessing any of them. From September 2025, on a funded day, this will be averaged out across the year to a charge of £10 per day. *N.B. On a day with no funding, this is included in our day rate.*

The Nursery deposit of £750 is to guarantee access to the Taunton School Nursery Exceptional offer. Should you opt out of this for the entirety of your child's time at Taunton School, then this deposit will be refunded upon leaving the Nursery.

When opting out, it is important to note that you must give a terms notice. This is to enable the nursery to ensure that we have the right staffing levels to effectively deliver our services to all families. Similarly for meals and snacks, we need to ensure that the kitchens and Nursery are able to order and prepare the correct amounts of food and so we will need a terms notice if you wish to opt out.

In order to claim the EYF, we will require additional information from you plus a completed Parent Declaration form.

Flexibility

If your child attends another setting as well as Taunton School, you can split the hourly entitlement funding. The maximum number of providers/settings you can attend at any one time is two.

Parents

Securing the best possible outcomes for your children means delivering an entitlement and Early Years Provision of the highest quality, flexibility, accessibility and gives you, the parent/carer choices which are best for you and your family.

Somerset County Council provides lots of information and guidance to help you make an informed choice. More information is available online at www.somersetfid.co.uk There is also a local rate helpline 0845 345 9122.

We also have information leaflets, please ask the TPPS office on 01823 703339 or tppsadmissions@tauntonschool.co.uk.

Complaints Procedure

Parents who are not satisfied that their child has been able to access their Early Years Entitlement should raise their concerns initially with Becky Lewis, Head of Pre-Prep and Nursery, however they can also ask the local Government Ombudsman to investigate their complaint further.

LGO
PO Box 4771
Coventry
CV4 0EH

Advice line: 0300 061 0614

www.lgo.org.uk

We are pleased to be part of the Early Years Entitlement Scheme and this document should be read in conjunction with the Taunton School Fees Policy, Terms and Conditions and registration requirements.

Becky Lewis

Head of Nursery and Pre-Prep

To be reviewed and updated annually or as required by Government legislation and according to Somerset Code of Practice.