

# NORTHGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Government Funded  
Nursery Entitlement Offer

## **Introduction**

Currently, all 3 and 4-year-old children receive up to 15 hours a week, fully funded early education, generally over 38 weeks of the year, starting the term after they become 3.

From September 2017, as part of the Childcare Act 2016, the government increased this fully funded entitlement to 30 hours a week for eligible parents.

We offer:

- Universal Funded Entitlement (15 hours)
- the Extended Funded Entitlement (30 hours)

Both our 15 and 30 hour offers will be provided over 38 weeks to match the school's academic terms.

Further information about how exactly these hours can be taken up is explained later in this leaflet.

## **Who is eligible?**

For 15 hours – All 3 and 4-year-olds in England are currently entitled to 15 hours a week government funded early education.

For 30 hours – You can apply if both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) and each parent earns:

- less than £100,000 per year
- more than the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage or minimum wage per week: for example, £120 per week if you are 25 or older. Apprentices are also eligible as long as they earn the equivalent of 16 hours at the apprentice minimum wage.

You will still be eligible for 30 hour funding if:

- You and your partner are employed but one or both of you is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity or paternity, adoption leave, or on statutory sick pay; or
- You are employed but your partner either has substantial caring responsibilities, or is disabled or incapacitated, or vice versa (in other words, your partner is employed but you have

caring responsibilities or are disabled or incapacitated). This is dependent on you or your partner being entitled to specific disability or caring benefits.

## **How do I apply?**

### Universal Funded Entitlement (15 hours)

You will be given a form for this to fill out for this, but it is available to all.

### Extended Funded Entitlement (30 hours)

An application must be made to the government in advance, who check that you are eligible and provide you with an eligibility code. To access the extended hours at a childcare provider for an age eligible child, you must apply for, and receive, your eligibility code by 31<sup>st</sup> August, to start accessing this entitlement in Autumn Term.

When you receive your code you will need to take this and fill in an extended hours form (this is available from the School Office).

You can apply and check your eligibility on the West Sussex Free Entitlement webpage or on the Childcare Choices website.

- [www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-childrenandfamilies/childcare-and-early-education/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-childrenandfamilies/childcare-and-early-education/)
- [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

When your eligibility is confirmed, give your code to the School Office and they will finalise the application for you.

You must reconfirm your eligibility online every three months. The Government will remind you by SMS or email before the deadline.

If you provide false information you could face a fine of up to £3,000.

### **What happens if I lose eligibility?**

For parents who cease to be eligible for 30 hours funding there will be a “grace period” of 2 weeks which means that they can keep their 30 hours funding for a short time.

Once the “grace period” has lapsed, the parent will revert to being eligible for the universal 15 hours entitlement.

### **How will the 15 and 30 hours funded entitlement be offered in the Nursery School?**

#### Universal Funded Entitlement (15 hours)

Children who are not eligible for the 30 hours, or have lost eligibility due to a change in parental circumstances, are still entitled to 15 hours per week (term time only).

Parents will need to choose their preferred sessions, either Monday – Wednesday (session B), or Wednesday – Friday (session A).

#### Extended Free Entitlement (30 hours)

Children accessing this option will attend Nursery School daily from 9am-3pm.

When your child stays at nursery all day you will need to arrange a lunch for them as one will not be provided.

### **How will places be allocated?**

Please see our Admissions Policy for a full explanation of how and when our places are allocated. Some sessions are particularly popular but we operate a waiting list system if you are unable to secure the place of your choice when your child first starts with us.

If you have any queries about anything in this leaflet, please call us or pop in to the School Office.

