



Early Years Free Entitlement Policy

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Policy Statement

This policy explains how Young Friends Kindergarten delivers government-funded early education and care places for eligible children.

We follow current Department for Education guidance and Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) requirements to ensure transparency, fairness, and high standards of care and education for all children.

Aims and Purpose

We are committed to:

- Providing clear and transparent access to Early Years Free Entitlement (EYFE) funding
- Ensuring all children receive high-quality early education, care and supervision
- Supporting families to understand how funding works within our setting
- Delivering a sustainable model that reflects our all-year-round provision

Funded hours are stretched across the year to support consistency for children and families.

Entitlements Explained

Universal Entitlement – All 3- and 4-Year-Olds

All children in England are entitled to 15 funded hours of early education per week (570 hours per year) from the term after their third birthday.

At Young Friends, this is delivered across the year by stretching hours over 51 weeks. This equates to approximately 11.4 hours per week.

Extended Entitlement – 30 Hours for Working Families

Eligible working families may receive an additional 15 hours (30 hours total).

When stretched across 51 weeks, this equates to approximately 22.8 hours per week.

To qualify, each parent (or sole parent in a single-parent household) must:

- Earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at minimum wage
 - Earn less than £100,000 per year
 - Apply via HMRC and provide a valid eligibility code each term
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Funding for Younger Children

- From September 2024: eligible working families may receive 15 hours from 9 months
- From September 2025: this increases to 30 hours for eligible working families from 9 months
- Some 2-year-olds may qualify for funded hours through local authority criteria

Eligibility must be confirmed through HMRC or Brighton & Hove City Council.

How Funding Works at Young Friends

Government funding contributes towards the cost of early education and care.

It does not cover additional services such as:

- Meals and snacks
- Consumables (e.g. nappies, wipes and care products)
- Enrichment experiences

All children attending Young Friends receive the same high-quality early education, care and supervision, regardless of how their place is funded.

Attendance Options at Young Friends

Families accessing funding may choose how to structure their child's place.

1. Full Young Friends Experience (Optional Services)

Families may choose to access additional services alongside their funded hours.

These may include:

- Freshly prepared plant-based meals and snacks
- Consumables such as nappies, wipes and care products
- Enrichment experiences such as cooking, gardening, trips and community activities

These services are optional and clearly costed separately.

2. Funded-Only Place

Families may choose to access funded hours only.

In this case:

- Meals, consumables and enrichment are not included
- Families provide their own food and care items where required
- Places are offered within specific session times

Where families provide food, this must be in line with the setting's Food Policy, including our plant-based approach and requirements for food safety, consistency, and allergen management.

Full details are available in our Food Policy.

Deposits for the fully funded spaces will be returned one month after the start date

Wraparound Care

Funded hours may be combined with additional wraparound care.

Wraparound care:

- Is optional
- Is charged at the standard hourly rate
- May include meals and snacks depending on session times

All charges are clearly communicated to families in advance.

Attendance, Eligibility and Changes

- One month's written notice is required for any session changes
 - Eligibility codes must be valid and renewed each term
 - A grace period may apply if eligibility lapses, after which fees may become payable
 - Absences may be reported in line with local authority requirements
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Additional Support Funding

Some children may be eligible for additional funding, including:

- Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)
- Disability Access Fund (DAF)

- Additional support services (e.g. SEND or language support)

These are used to support children's development within the setting.

Important Information

- Funded hours are provided in line with government guidance
- Additional services such as meals, consumables and enrichment are optional
- All costs are clearly communicated to families in advance
- All children receive the same standard of care, education and safeguarding

Further Information

This policy is based on current EYFS statutory guidance and local authority requirements.

For full eligibility details, families should refer to:

- Brighton & Hove City Council
- The Childcare Choices website

We are always happy to support families in understanding their options and how funding applies to their child's place.

Full Young Friends Experience (Optional Services) Fees

Sessions	Hours	Funding Applied	Non funded hours to pay for	Food	Non food Consumables	Enrichment Activites	Total to pay
8am to 4pm	8hrs	0hrs	8hrs to pay £90.64	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£90.64
8am to 4pm	8hrs	3.4hrs	4.6hrs to pay £52.12	£12.00	£4.08	£3.16	£71.36
8am to 4pm	8hrs	6.8hrs	1.2hrs to pay £13.78	£11.66	£8.16	£18.66	£52.26
8am to 4pm	8hrs	8hrs	0hrs	£12.00	£9.60	£23.68	45.28
8am to 4pm	8hrs	4.8hrs	3.2hrs to pay £36.76	£10.16	£5.76	£11.24	£63.92
8am to 6pm	10hrs	0hrs	10hrs to pay £104.23	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£104.23
8am to 6pm	10hrs	5.6	4.4hrs to pay £44.55	£16.00	£12.00	£3.69	£76.24
8am to 6pm	10hrs	10 hrs	0hrs	£16.00	£12.00	£28.60	56.6
8am to 6pm	10hrs	2.8hrs	7.2hrs to pay £72.51	£4.50	£3.36	£7.98	£88.35
8am to 6pm	10hrs	1.4hrs	8.6hrs to pay £98.81	£3.00	£1.68	£3.24	£106.73