

James Dixon Primary School

Learning to be the best I can

30 Hours Funded Childcare

We currently offer a limited number of 30 hour funded childcare places to working parents of 3 and 4 year olds, subject to meeting certain eligibility criteria and availability of places. Our 30 hour offer consists of 30 hours free provision plus a fee of £7.00 per day to cover lunchtime supervision. If offered a 30 hour place, this would mean that your child would be in school from 8.30 am to 3.15pm, each day, and you would be required to provide your child with a packed lunch. The main benefit of the extended offer is that it allows families with 3 and 4 year olds to start work or extend their working pattern. We have attached some additional information about the 30 hour free entitlement for your reference.

If you believe you are eligible and would like to apply for the 30 hour offer you will need to indicate this on the attached reply form. You can check whether you might be eligible by going to the Childcare Costs Calculator at <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator> and applying for the 30 hours free childcare via <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs>.

Once registered, you will receive an email confirming when you can sign up to confirm your eligibility. **If you are eligible for the 30 hours, you will receive an 11 digit eligibility code which the school will require in order to confirm whether it is able to offer a place, subject to availability.** The code will normally be valid for 3 months. Please note that the 30 hour offer will not be an open offer, parents will need to check eligibility every 3 months and provide the required code to the school to continue entitlement in each school term. For further information regarding early years funded places and eligibility criteria please go to: <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk>.

Preschool Uniform

Children in our preschool are required to wear the following: a pale blue polo shirt, navy blue jumper and navy blue jogging bottoms or skirt and comfortable footwear that children can put on and take off independently. Children will also need a pair of wellies for Forest School sessions.



Early Years 30 Hour Free Entitlement

Criteria for the additional 15 hours


- To qualify for the additional 15 hours of free childcare, each parent (or the sole parent in a single parent family) will have to be in work, and expect to earn on average £120 a week (the equivalent of 16 hours on the national minimum wage) and no more than £100,000 per year.
- Self-employed parents and parents on zero-hours contracts will be eligible if they meet the average earnings threshold.
- Families where one parent is not in paid employment (or neither parent works) will usually not be eligible for these additional hours.


- Parents who are studying or in training will not be eligible unless this is combined with paid work which meets the minimum average earnings threshold.


Checking eligibility for the additional 15 hours

- Parents can check whether they might be eligible by using the Childcare Costs Calculator at <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>
- Funding can only be accessed from the term following their eligibility e.g. if a parent checks and is eligible in January 2018, they will not be able to take the following funding up until April 2018, so **parents need to apply the term before** they want to access childcare.
- The 30 hour offer will not be an open offer, parents will need to check every 3 months and provide the school with the required proof of eligibility by the required deadline in order to continue provision.
- Eligibility can be confirmed by logging into: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs>.
- Once registered you will receive an email confirming when you can sign up to confirm your eligibility.
- This will allow you to go onto the GOV.UK website to complete your application. If you are not digitally aware you will be provided with details of a help line number to complete the application.
- Your eligibility is assessed based on the information submitted and HMRC data. If successful, you will be shown confirmation that an account has been created for you on the system.
- If you are eligible for the 30 hours, you will receive an 11 digit eligibility code into your secure account. The code will normally be valid for 3 months.
- If you receive a provisional offer of a place from an early years setting which offers 30 hours provision, you will be asked to provide them with your eligibility code. The code will be validated by the childcare provider before a place is offered to your child.
- Upon successfully validating the eligibility code, the parent and childcare provider will agree on a date when the additional provision will begin.
- You will then receive notification to reconfirm your eligibility for 30 hours before the validity end date. You will be asked to confirm that your circumstances have not changed since the initial application or update the application if it has.
- HMRC will remind the parent to re-confirm their eligibility as their valid period draws to a close.
- Please note that although the offer is described as 30 hours of childcare, it is in fact an additional 15 hours to the universal entitlement to 15 hours and that the two entitlements can be assessed at separate settings. Parents wishing to access separate settings will need to choose which setting has the universal (and guaranteed) first 15 hours.

What should I do next?

 **All parents and carers need to complete our updated preschool application form and return this to the school office as soon as possible.**

 **If you do not wish to take up the 30 hour offer, you may still apply for a free 15 hour place.**

 **If you believe that you are eligible and would like to apply for the 30 hour offer you will need to indicate this on the attached reply form and also return it to the school office.**

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Minnott
Head of School