

The Day Nursery Pupil Premium Policy

Why is the Government introducing the EYPP?

The Sutton Trust claims that at the start of school there is a 19 month gap between the most and least advantaged children. Many disadvantaged children are already behind when they start school and these gaps that are apparent in the early years, between disadvantaged children and their peers, persist and widen throughout school and beyond.

Closing this gap and eradicating this inequality is fundamental to ensuring all children get the best start in life. The Government is therefore prioritising high quality early education because it can make a dramatic difference to children's life chances.

Building on the successful model of the school age Pupil Premium, this additional investment to early year's providers to help raise the quality of provision, aims to close the gap between 3 & 4 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.

What is the Early Years Pupil Premium?

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is additional funding given to early years providers to spend on enriching children's education and improving outcomes for eligible children.

EYPP funding is based on 570 hours per academic year. The funding rate is £302.10 per academic year, which equates to £0.53 per hour. The EYPP funding will follow the child in the same way as the Nursery Education place.

Are all 2, 3 and 4 year old funded children eligible for the EYPP?

No. The EYPP is only available to 3 and 4 year olds that are accessing the early education entitlement and only if they meet the set eligibility criteria.

Will eligible 2 year olds accessing the early education entitlement automatically qualify for the EYPP?

No, the eligibility criteria are different. The EYPP is focused on the most disadvantaged children, it is targeted at 3 and 4 year olds from economically disadvantaged households and those who are in or have been in care.

When do children start being eligible?

Three and four year olds will be eligible for the EYPP if they are accessing the early education entitlement and if they meet the eligibility criteria. Children will become eligible at different points in the year depending on when they turn three/four, the same as their eligibility for the early education entitlement. A child's eligibility for the EYPP will be checked at the time they become eligible for the 3 and 4 year old free Early education entitlement.

Who can apply for the Early Years Pupil Premium - Qualifying Criteria

A child will be eligible for pupil premium funding if they are in receipt of the government funded early education and the family must meet at least 1 of the following criteria:

- In a low income family. Their parents are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:
 - Income Support
 - Income-based Jobseekers Allowance●
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
 - Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
 - Universal Credit

Children are also entitled to a place if:

- they're looked after by a local council
- they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education health and care plan
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

In general, children who would be eligible for free school meals later on are eligible for the EYPP at age three and four, as well as looked-after children and those whose parents are in the armed forces. 'National Insurance numbers or National Asylum Support Service numbers will be needed to register for the funding.

The EYPP funding eligibility depends on details such as income, partners' income, the status of a relationship - sensitive information.

What is the arrangement for looked after children?

The LA's Virtual School Head will be responsible for identifying eligible looked after children and will work with the child's social worker or foster carer to arrange EYPP funding with the associated early years providers. This will include any looked-after children who live in this LA area, even those who get their early years education with a provider based in a different LA.

Early Years providers responsibility.

Early years providers are responsible for:

- identifying which of the children in their care may be eligible for the early years pupil premium (EYPP)
- passing that information on to their local authority

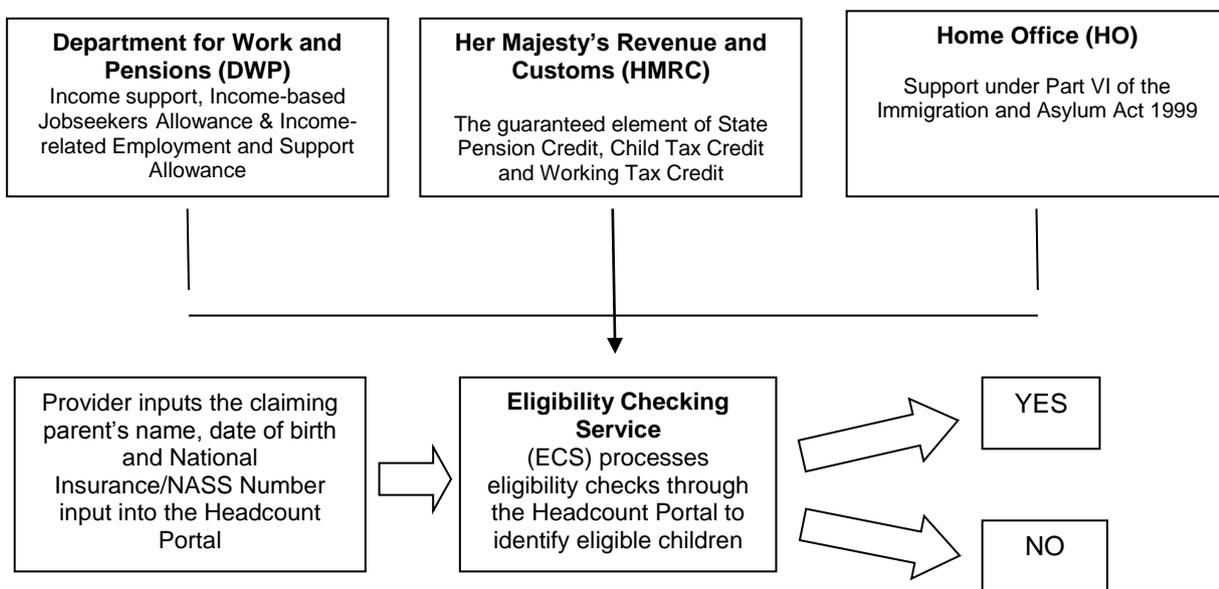
Providers typically already collect paperwork from parents claiming the early education entitlement, including the Parental Agreement. The Parental Agreement has been amended to include collecting information from the parent to enable, and give permission for, the EYPP eligibility check to be conducted. In essence, this will mean collecting the parents National Insurance number or National Asylum Support Service (NASS) number and their date of birth. It will be voluntary for parents to give this information, but it is hoped that if this information is collected for all parents, all eligible children will be identified. The Parental Agreements are still retained by us for auditing purposes.

All children aged three and four (not two year olds), who meet the eligibility criteria will benefit from the funding. This funding is paid directly to us on an hourly rate basis, linked to claimed hours for entitled children. As we are registered to offer early years places we can receive the EYPP. In order to be able to claim this funding we require parents to sign the funding agreement which asks for details of parent's date of birth and National Insurance number

DfE recommends that providers ask all parents and guardians, regardless of family income or circumstances, to complete the form when they enrol their child. Providers should then share the completed form with their local authority so they can run the necessary checks and make sure the providers receive the EYPP funding they are entitled to.

How is a child's eligibility checked?

Children's eligibility for the EYPP will be checked using the ECS, the same way eligibility for 2 year olds is checked at the moment. The table below illustrates how the ECS works.



What happens if my income changes?

The Early Years Pupil Premium eligibility does not change once your Early Years provider has confirmed your entitlement. If you do have any concerns, please contact the Early Education & Childcare Service.

What happens if I change address?

If you change address or move home your funding is still secure, providing you are still using the same childcare provider.

What happens if I want or need to change my childcare provider?

If you would like to change your childcare provider due to moving home or other reasons, you will have to make a new application for the Early Years Pupil Premium with your new provider.

Please note, as payments are made to childcare providers termly, if you leave mid-term, your new childcare provider will not be able to claim for the EYPP until the following term.

We know that a high quality early education can influence how well a child does at both primary and secondary school so we are very keen to access this funding where we can. All families will be asked to fill in the relevant section of the funding declaration form given out at the beginning of the academic year which will allow us to claim the funding for all eligible children. Eligibility is checked simply using a parent/carer's National Insurance number

How much is the EYPP allocation for an eligible child?

- The hourly rate for the EYPP is £0.53 per child. The amount of EYPP paid is pro-rated dependent on the amount of early education entitlement the child accesses.
- For example, an eligible child accessing their full 15 hour entitlement would attract the maximum funding (53p per hour x 15 hours a week x 38 weeks a year = £302.10 per year, for example), whereas a child accessing 10 hours a week for 2 terms would have funding pro-rated (53p per hour x 10 hours a week x 26 weeks = £137.80, for example).
- As with the funding for the early education entitlement, where a child takes up the entitlement at more than one provider, the providers will receive the EYPP proportionate to the number of hours the child attends

Using the EYPP money

Nurseries can use the EYPP as they wish in order to make a difference to the most disadvantaged. The money does not have to go directly to the child; it can be pooled and used for universal interventions.

As an Early Years setting we have the freedom to choose how we spend the money to best support disadvantaged children in our care. We will use the additional funding in the some of the following ways:

- Continue our commitment to furthering our knowledge within our Continuing Professional Development by attending relevant training.
- Creating 'Home/Setting' lending bags.
- Buy in any specialist services to support families and children (this includes the cost of staffing such events
- Providing additional staff to allow us to provide more acceptable child: adult ratios.
- Purchasing additional resources.
- Building on successful interventions, such as language groups for targeted children, and extending various initiatives.

As yet, there are no published examples as to what the EYPP can be spent on. Acceptable expenditure, it is suggested, could include:

- funding on language groups for targeted children
- play therapy
- speech therapist
- music specialist
- toy library
- parent education sessions.
- It could provide additional training for staff on early language
- investing in partnership working with colleagues in the area to further expertise
- support staff working in specialised areas, such as speech and language.

Money doesn't have to go directly to the child, it can be pooled and used for universal interventions so that a group of providers get more for their money i.e. to purchase group training.

How we measure the impact of the EYPP.

However the money is spent, settings will need to be clear to Ofsted, with supporting guidance, on how this has resulted in a measurable quality improvement. For example they can:

- buy equipment to support children's learning and development
- employ specialist staff to help children develop their speech and language skills
- enhance children's life experiences by going on outings and or offering additional life experiences from external companies.

We are continually reviewing the data we collect on children's attainment and refreshing our strategies to support children who are falling behind or in danger of doing so. The practical ideas that are implemented on a daily basis are only a few of the strategies used and their success can be monitored through the data. However, there are other ways that we measure and monitor the impact we have on families. These are:

1. Parent questionnaires;
2. Informal conversations at the start or end of a day;
3. Parent feedback forms provided with children's Learning Journals;
4. Formal consultations;
5. Success after the implementation of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF's);
6. Conversations with professionals we work alongside to support families;
7. Feedback from feeder primary schools;
8. Every Child a Talker (ECAT) data.
9. Local authority monitoring tool
10. Babysdays children's development comparison data

Ofsted Monitoring EYPP

Ofsted will be including measures on how nurseries are making a difference with the EYPP funding in its inspections, but there is some confusion as to how the inspectorate will ensure that this is consistent with the Department for Education's decision to allow providers to spend the premium as they wish.

It is not the Government, but Ofsted that will hold providers to account for how the EYPP has been used to support disadvantaged children. This will be done through the regular inspection process. During an inspection providers are already required to show how they are meeting the needs of individual children, including those who are disadvantaged. The EYPP will build on this approach. It will be Ofsted's task to monitor the impact of the funding and this is likely to become an important aspect of future inspections.

It is expected that Ofsted will update their inspection frameworks to set out that effective use and impact of the EYPP will be assessed under the leadership and management judgement. To make this judgement Ofsted will want to see evidence that a provider has considered how best to invest EYPP funding, how they expect to determine if the money improves a child's outcomes and any evidence available on impact already achieved.

Ofsted will need to produce detailed guidance on what this will mean in practice and what criteria providers will need to meet to be judged to be using the EYPP well. What is known is that the funding must be used to improve the quality of early years education for disadvantaged children and that providers will be held to account for the quality of the early education that they provide to disadvantaged children through Ofsted inspection.

It is recommended that providers therefore ensure there is an effective tracking system in place in order to evidence the progress and impact of the EYPP on the eligible children. It is expected that Ofsted will update the provider self-evaluation framework to include questions on the approach that providers are taking to use the EYPP, how they are making use of the money, which children they are targeting the money on and how children's outcomes are improving under the EYFS and will ask questions on these areas during inspection.

Data Protection

We are committed to ensuring that the personal and sensitive information that we hold about you is protected and kept safe and secure, and we have measures in place to prevent the loss, misuse or alteration of your personal information.

We will use the information you provide to assess entitlement to the Early years Pupil Premium. The information will be shared with other council departments to offer benefits and services.