



30 Hours Funded Childcare

What is 30 hours of childcare?

All children are entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare per week. This covers a 3-hour Nursery session, five days per week. At HTL these sessions take place between 8.45 a.m. – 11.45 a.m. or 12.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

The government also pays for an additional 15 hours funded childcare each week, if you meet the eligibility criteria.

If you are eligible for this funding, your child can stay at the Nursery between 8.45 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. every day. There is a charge of £3.50 per day, payable half-termly in advance, to cover the cost of lunchtime supervision. Your child will also need a packed lunch each day.

If you are eligible, you will be provided with an eligibility code. You need only provide the school with this code and your National Insurance number; this enables us to claim funding directly from the government.

How do I know if I am eligible?

You can usually get 30 hours free childcare if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in employment, or getting parental leave, sick leave or annual leave
- each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours per week - this is £2167.00 during the next three months for people aged over 23 years
- Please see the government website for full eligibility information:
<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

This earnings limit does not apply if you are self-employed and started your business less than 12 months ago.

You are not eligible if:

- your child does not usually live with you
- the child is your foster child (speak to your social worker or local authority)
- either you or your partner has a taxable income over £100,000
- you're from outside the EEA and your UK residence card says you cannot access public funds

You can get 30 hours free childcare at the same time as claiming Universal Credit, tax credits or childcare vouchers.

If you cannot work

You may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you receive Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance.

How do I apply?

Apply online at this website:

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>

You will need your details (and your partner's, if you have one), including your:

- National Insurance number
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR), if you're self-employed

It usually takes about 20 minutes to apply. You can sometimes find out if you're eligible straight away, but it may take up to 7 days.

What do I do with my code?

The code needs to be obtained as soon as possible and provided to the school office, preferably by the second week in July and no later than the end of August, as that is the government deadline. The code and your National Insurance number should be emailed to contact@htl.bexley.sch.uk. We then submit this information to the government, confirming you will be claiming your additional hours with us.

Does my child have to stay all day every day?

No.

We will ask you to complete a schedule each term, detailing how many days you would like them to stay (subject to availability). In previous years parents have found Nursery attendance very beneficial in preparing their child for Reception the following September.

What does my child do from 11.45am – 12.30pm?

This is the children's lunch break. You will need to provide a packed lunch. They will be taken to the dining hall where they will eat and join in the social aspect of school. When they have finished, they will return to the nursery for supervised outdoor play.

This 45-minute period is not covered by government funding and costs £3.50 per day to cover staffing supervision. This is payable in advance via the school's online payment system, Pay360 Education Payments. You will be issued a code for our online payment system once your child is admitted to the school in September.

I am not eligible; can my child still stay all day?

Yes.

For parents who still require the flexibility of a full day in Nursery, you can pay the school directly via our online payment system. The cost is £18.50 per day, which covers the three additional hours plus the lunch break.

How long does the eligibility code last for?

Usually one term, but it is easy to recheck and re-validate your code via the government website. You will be sent a reminder notification towards the end of each term.