

Frequently Asked Questions

What do you mean by ‘the term after a child’s third birthday’?

The offer will begin from the start of the term after a child’s third birthday until they are offered a full time educational place - aligning with the Foundation Phase provision. The term is in relation to a full term and not a half term start.

How many holiday weeks apply to my child?

The Childcare Offer will provide eligible working parents of 3 - 4 year olds with 30 hours of funded early education and childcare per week, for up to 48 weeks of the year. Term time will be treated as 39 weeks, meaning the other 9 pro-rata weeks of the 48 week offer will be treated as non-term time or ‘holiday provision’.

Up to 3 weeks of holiday provision is applied to each school term the child is eligible for the offer, as shown in table below. It is parental choice as to when you use a paid holiday week and when you use your 4 non paid weeks. Parents are not able to ‘stretch’ their entitlement across weeks or transfer unused hours across weeks.

If your child starts the childcare offer funding between:	Eligible term applicable	Holiday week entitlement	Total pro-rata school holiday weeks allocated until the September following a child’s 4th birthday.
September/October/November December/or	Autumn	9 weeks	18 weeks
January/February/ March/ or	Spring	6 weeks	15 weeks
April/May /June/July/August	Summer	3 weeks	12 weeks

The [holiday week](#) entitlement is automatically renewed each September to [eligible children](#) accessing the ‘offer’. N.B. [Cross border](#) children are subject to Flintshire County Council term dates.

How are my education and childcare hours split?

During school term time (39 weeks a year), the existing early education entitlement under FPN will form part of the 30 hours of the Offer. The exact hourly split between FPN and childcare will depend on the current provision of FPN offered by the local authority, or, where relevant, the individual school, but will comprise of at least 10 hours of FPN and cannot be more than a total of 30 hours of combined early education and childcare. Where a setting chooses to offer additional FPN hours than the number offered and funded by the local authority, the local authority will need to ensure that the total number of hours does not exceed 30 hours for any one child.

If your child turns 3 years of age between 1st September - and the cut-off date within April, then that makes your child eligible for Early Entitlement (FPN1). From the following September of accessing FPN1, your child then becomes eligible for Foundation Phase Nursery (FPN2), which allocates 12.5 educational hours. Application for FPN1 see; [Early Entitlement Funding Scheme Flintshire](#).

Children that do not fall into the above category of FPN1, will automatically qualify for FPN2 starting in the September following their 3rd birthday, however you will need to apply for this separately; [school nursery admissions](#); see table below showing hourly split.

The entitlement split is as follows:

Entitlements

Scheme	Learning Entitlement	Childcare Allowance
Early Entitlement (FPN1)	10 hours per week	20 hours per week
Foundation Phase Nursery (FPN2)	12.5 hours per week	17.5 hours per week

Why do I get 30 hours childcare during a holiday week?

Outside term-time, the FPN will not be available and working parents will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare per week. Three weeks of holiday provision will be allocated per term. This will be delivered in registered non-maintained childcare settings only, such as private day nurseries, childminders, out of school childcare and sessional care. This will inevitably put additional pressures on these services, especially during the summer holidays.

What if I need more than 30 hours per week?

If you wish to increase your childcare hours then it is your responsibility to pay for any additional hours you use with your childcare provider. Please also ensure you have a contract in place with the provider.

Can I still apply for the ‘offer’ if I am on Maternity?

Yes, however you will need to evidence that you have met eligibility prior to your maternity leave and also evidence your statutory maternity leave and return to work date. Please see [exemptions](#).

What If I choose not to return to work after my maternity leave?

Your funding for the childcare offer hours will cease.

Can I be charged a ‘top-up’ fee?

No, settings are not to charge parents any hourly top-up fee for the 3 and 4 year olds who are attending under the terms of the offer.

Guidelines in Respect of Charging for Additional Elements

The Welsh Government guidelines in respect of charging for additional elements during a full day care session (approximately 10 hours) are that parents should not be charged more than £7.50 per day for food. This figure is derived from using a value of £2.00 per meal. A charge of £7.50 for a full day care session would include three meals at £2.00 per meal and 2 snacks at a charge of 75p per snack.

Guidelines in respect of charging for additional elements during a half-day session (approximately 5.5 hours) are that parents should not be charged more than £4.75.

This figure would allow for a child to be charged for two meals at £2.00 per meal plus a snack at a charge of 75p per snack.

For sessional care where a meal is not provided but children receive a snack, guidelines are that parents should not be charged more than 75p per day for snack provision.

Fees for transport and off-site activities will not be set by the Welsh Government. Transport costs will vary depending on the location and nature of a childcare provider, the type of transport provided and the costs associated with staffing and maintaining transport vehicles. Rates for off-site activities where costs are incurred will also vary according to the nature of the activities.

However it is expected that transport rates would be reasonable and in line with normal transport costs (transport costs before the introduction of the Offer). Participants of the Offer should not be charged more for transport than children not accessing the Offer. The same applies for additional activities.