

All About the Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare 2020/2021

Improving life
through learning



Contents

1	What is the expansion of early learning and childcare?	4
2	Why is this happening?	4
3	What does this mean for me?	4
4	When will this happen?	5
5	Where can I access my funded hours?	5
6	How will the funded sessions work?	8
7	Will I have to pay to access my funded hours?	12
8	Can my child access their funded hours with different providers?	12
9	What if my child lives in another local authority area?	13
10	Will my child have to attend for the full sessions?	13
11	Can my child combine funded and unfunded sessions with different providers?	14
12	When will my child be eligible for a funded place?	15
13	Can my child attend for more than just the funded hours in a local authority nursery?	15
14	What about meals and snacks?	16
15	What days or weeks will the nurseries be open and closed?	17
16	Is my 2 year old eligible for a funded place?	18
17	Can I get a nursery place if my child is under 3?	20
18	What is the process for settling my child into a local authority nursery?	20
19	Can my child continue to receive ELC if I defer their school entry date?	22
20	How do I apply for a child care place?	22
21	Useful Links	23
Appendices		
Appendix 1	Local Authority Nursery Fees from August 2020/2021	
Appendix 2	Funded entitlement each term in models 1 to 5	
Appendix 3	Funded entitlement for each session attended in models 1 to 5	

1 What is the expansion of early learning and childcare?

Early learning and childcare (ELC) in Scotland is undergoing transformative change. The annual entitlement to free ELC provision of 600 hours per year over 38 weeks will almost double to an entitlement of 1140 hours per year. This will apply to all three and four year olds and eligible two year olds from August 2020.

2 Why is this happening?

The expansion of ELC is a government priority. It has two main policy aims: to improve outcomes for children and to support parents (particularly mothers) into employment.

New National Standard

The Scottish Government has published a new National Standard which will apply to all ELC providers from 1 August 2020.

This means ELC providers can apply to Stirling Council for a contract to offer funded places in their settings. If they are awarded a contract they become “Funded Providers” along with Stirling Council’s local authority nurseries.

The National Standard will ensure all settings offering funded ELC will meet the same minimum criteria for quality, this includes local authority nurseries, private, voluntary and independent nurseries, playgroups and childminders.

The criteria and sub criteria in the National Standard is available via the link in section 21. All funded providers must adhere to these criteria.

3 What does this mean for me?

Stirling Council will provide 1140 hours of funded ELC a year for children aged 3-5 and eligible 2 year olds. The criteria for funded two year old places is explained in Section 16.

You will be entitled to 25 free hours a week or 30 free hours a week depending on the number of weeks the setting is open over the year.

You can choose to take this in different ways, full days or half days or a combination of both. Section 6 explains your options in more detail.

4 When will this happen?

We have already been offering the increased entitlement to families as part of our phased roll out which began in August 2018.

- **Phase 1:** From August 2018
- **Phase 2:** From August 2019
- **Phase 3:** From August 2020

Phase 3 is the final phase and will include all local authority nurseries and other funded provider nurseries and childminders from August 2020.

A list of childminders offering funded hours is available from the [SCMA](#) (Scottish Childminding Association) or from [The Family Information Service website](#) and [Stirling Council's website](#).

SCMA contact details

7 Melville Terrace
Stirling
FK8 2ND
01786 445377

5 Where can I access my funded hours?

You will have a wide choice of providers offering funded hours. This includes local authority nurseries, private, voluntary and independent nurseries and childminders. The tables below list the nurseries in each learning community where you can access your funded hours. Information for using a childminder is also included in this section.

Balfron Learning Community	Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Arnprior Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Croftamie Nursery*
Local Authority Funded Provider	Balfron Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Fintry Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Killearn Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Strathblane Primary School Nursery
Private Funded Provider	Heron House
Private Funded Provider	Mulberry Bush Montessori Nursery

*Moving to Drymen Primary School by August 2021

Bannockburn Learning Community	Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Cowie Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Park Drive Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Bannockburn Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Braehead Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	East Plean Primary School Nursery
Private Funded Provider	The Meadows Nursery

Dunblane Learning Community	Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Dunblane Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Newton Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	St Mary's Episcopal Primary School Nursery
Private Funded Provider	Arnhall Nursery
Private Funded Provider	Dunblane Nature Kindergarten
Private Funded Provider	Old Doune Road Nursery

McLaren Learning Community	Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Crianlarich Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Killin Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Aberfoyle Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Callander Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Doune Primary School Nursery

Stirling Learning Community	Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Baker Street Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Hillview Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Wellgreen Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Borestone Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Cambusbarron Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	St Ninians Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Castleview (ASN Provision)
Private Funded Provider	Acrewood Nursery
Private Funded Provider	Bright Beginnings Nursery
Independent Funded Provider	Cambusbarron Village Nursery

Wallace Learning Community	Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Cornton Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Fallin Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Raploch Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Bridge of Allan Primary School Nursery
Local Authority Funded Provider	Riverside Primary School Nursery
Private Funded Provider	Bright Starts Nursery
Private Funded Provider	Lecropt Nursery
Private Funded Provider	Little Stars Nursery
Independent Funded Provider	Psychology Kindergarten

6 How will the funded sessions work?

We have listened to the needs of our families and many local authority nurseries will all be open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm and for longer weeks of the year. There are 5 different ways you can access your funded entitlement. This gives you choice and flexibility to use your funding in different ways. **Appendix 2 and 3** provide details of your entitlement in each model based on the number of sessions used and the term your child becomes eligible.

Five Funded Models

Models 1 to 4 are available in local authority settings and with most other funded providers. Model 5 is available with some funded providers other than local authority. Childminders are not individually listed but can be found on our website or by contacting the SCMA.

Model 1: 48.2 weeks (8 am to 6 pm)

These settings will be open 8 am to 6 pm for 48.2 weeks a year. You will be entitled to 25 funded hours a week for 45.6 weeks. Sessions will be 5 hour half days, morning or afternoon or a 10 hour full day. As these settings are open longer, you can choose to buy the additional 2.6 weeks (13 days). You will have the choice of a 45.6 week contract or a 48.2 week contract. The table below details the nurseries in model 1.

		Funded Hours and Weeks			
Setting	Learning Community	Hours	Weeks	Open Weeks	Sector
Arnprior Nursery	Balfron	25	45.6	48.2	Local Authority
Cowie Nursery	Bannockburn	25	45.6	48.2	Local Authority
Park Drive Nursery	Bannockburn	25	45.6	48.2	Local Authority
Killin Nursery	McLaren	25	45.6	48.2	Local Authority
Baker Street Nursery	Stirling	25	45.6	48.2	Local Authority
Hillview Nursery	Stirling	25	45.6	48.2	Local Authority
Wellgreen Nursery	Stirling	25	45.6	48.2	Local Authority
Cornton Nursery	Wallace	25	45.6	48.2	Local Authority
Fallin Nursery	Wallace	25	45.6	48.2	Local Authority
Raploch Nursery	Wallace	25	45.6	48.2	Local Authority

Model 2: 45.6 weeks (8 am to 6 pm)

These settings will be open 8 am to 6 pm for 45.6 weeks a year. You will be entitled to 25 funded hours a week for 45.6 weeks. Sessions will be 5 hour half days, morning or afternoon or a 10 hour full day. The table below details the nurseries in model 2.

		Funded Hours and Weeks			
Setting	Learning Community	Hours	Weeks	Open Weeks	Sector
Balfron Primary School Nursery	Balfron	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Croftamie Nursery*	Balfron	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Strathblane Primary School Nursery	Balfron	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Bannockburn Primary School Nursery	Bannockburn	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Braehead Primary School Nursery	Bannockburn	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
East Plean Primary School Nursery	Bannockburn	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Dunblane Primary School Nursery	Dunblane	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Newton Primary School Nursery	Dunblane	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Old Doune Road Nursery	Dunblane	25	45.6	51	Private
Aberfoyle Primary School Nursery	McLaren	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Callander Primary School Nursery	McLaren	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Doune Primary School Nursery	McLaren	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Borestone Primary School Nursery	Stirling	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
St Ninians Primary School Nursery	Stirling	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Acrewood Nursery	Stirling	25	45.6	51	Private
Bright Beginnings Nursery	Stirling	25	45.6	51	Private
Bridge of Allan Primary School Nursery	Wallace	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Riverside Primary School Nursery	Wallace	25	45.6	45.6	Local Authority
Bright Starts Nursery	Wallace	25	45.6	51	Private
Lecropt Nursery	Wallace	25	45.6	51	Private
Little Stars Nursery	Wallace	25	45.6	51	Private

***Moving to Drymen Primary School by August 2021**

Model 3: 38 weeks (8 am to 6 pm)

These settings will be open 8 am to 6 pm term time over 38 weeks. You will be entitled to 30 funded hours a week for 38 weeks. Sessions will be 5 hour half days, morning or afternoon or a 10 hour full day. The table below details the nurseries in model 3.

		Funded Hours and Weeks			
Setting	Learning Community	Hours	Weeks	Open Weeks	Sector
Fintry Primary School Nursery	Balfron	30	38	38	Local Authority
Killlearn Primary School Nursery	Balfron	30	38	38	Local Authority
Heron House Nursery	Balfron	30	38	51	Private
Old Doune Road Nursery	Dunblane	30	38	51	Private
Crianlarich Nursery	McLaren	30	38	38	Local Authority
Cambusbarron Primary School Nursery	Stirling	30	38	38	Local Authority
Lecropt Nursery	Stirling	30	38	51	Private

Model 4: 38 weeks (9 am to 3 pm)

These settings will be open 9 am to 3 pm (or similar) term time only over 38 weeks. You will be entitled to 30 funded hours a week over 38 weeks. Sessions will be 6 hour full days. The table below details the nurseries in model 4.

		Funded Hours and Weeks			
Setting	Learning Community	Hours	Weeks	Open Weeks	Sector
St Mary's Episcopal Primary School Nursery	Dunblane	30	38	38	Local Authority
Castlevew Nursery	Stirling	30	38	38	Local Authority
Cambusbarron Village Nursery	Stirling	30	38	38	Independent
Psychology Kindergarten	Wallace	30	38	38	Independent

Model 5: 51 weeks (8 am to 6 pm)

These settings will be open 8am to 6 pm 51 weeks a year. You will be entitled to 22 hours and 20 minutes funding a week for 51 weeks. Sessions will be 5 hour half days, morning or afternoon or a 10 hour full day.

		Funded Hours and Weeks			
Setting	Learning Community	Hours	Weeks	Open Weeks	Sector
Heron House Nursery	Balfron	22.3	51	51	Private
Mulberry Bush Montessori	Balfron	22.3	51	51	Private
The Meadows Nursery	Bannockburn	22.3	51	51	Private
Arnhall Nursery	Dunblane	22.3	51	51	Private
Dunblane Nature Kindergarten	Dunblane	22.3	51	51	Private
Old Doune Road Nursery	Dunblane	22.3	51	51	Private
Lecropt Nursery	Stirling	22.3	51	51	Private

Appendix 2 provides full details of the funding available in each of the models from model 1 to model 5. It includes details of your entitlement over the funded weeks based on attending all or just some of your funded sessions.

7 Will I have to pay to access my funded hours?

There is no payment to access funded hours. All providers must offer funded places in line with the National Standard. This says,

“Settings delivering the funded entitlement must ensure that access to the funded hours are free at the point of access to the child and that parents and carers are not subject to any fees in relation to the funded hours.”

This means you can choose to take just your funded hours and you do not have to buy any additional sessions, hours or weeks. This applies in all funded provider settings. The National Standard goes on to say,

“The setting must ensure that parents and carers are not asked to make any upfront payment, including a deposit or any other payment, in respect of the funded hours. No top-up fees are charged to parents and carers relating to the funded hours; parents and carers are not required to purchase additional hours beyond the funded hours in order to access their child’s funded entitlement at the setting. Additional charges to parents and carers relating to the funded hours should be optional, and limited to, for example, snacks and costs of outings or extracurricular activities such as music classes.”

Funded providers will explain the funded model they are using and tell you how many funded hours and funded weeks you are entitled to. This will be clearly detailed in their parent handbook or in their admissions information.

They will also give you information on their costs for unfunded hours and sessions should you choose to use them. Charges for unfunded sessions are set by the funded provider and local authorities are not involved in this process.

The costs for unfunded sessions in local authority nurseries is available on our website. More information about fees can be found in **Appendix 1**.

8 Can my child access their funded hours with different providers?

From 1 August 2020, the Scottish Government will be introducing a policy called “funding follows the child”. This means you will be able to choose which providers you use and how many funded hours you use with each of them.

For example, you might choose:

- One day with a childminder (10 hours).
- One and a half days with a local authority nursery (15 hours).

Please note, the minimum attendance at any local authority nursery will be one full day or 2 half days.

9 What if my child lives in another local authority area?

Children who access ELC with a funded provider in the Stirling local authority area but live in another local authority area are termed “cross boundary”. The funding follows the child policy means that you will be able to access your entitlement to funding in a local authority other than the one you live in. You can access your funded entitlement with a funded provider in Stirling local authority even if you live in another local authority area.

10 Will my child have to attend for the full session?

The increased entitlement to 1140 hours means that the session times are longer than those previously offered in some local authority nurseries. Your child does not have to attend a full 10 hour day or full 5 hour half day and you do not have to use all your funded entitlement. It will be up to you to decide if you want to use less than 1140 hours.

You can also choose when, within the session times, you drop off and pick up your child. However, if possible we would ask that children attending a full day or a morning session are in nursery by 9.30 am. This is to ensure they are able to settle in at the same time as the rest of the group. Equally, you can pick up your child before 6 pm. If you are planning to pick up before 4 pm, please let the nursery know.

Attendance for a full day or a half day will be calculated as either a 10 hour or 5 hour block of funding even if you decide to use less than this.



11 Can my child combine funded and unfunded sessions with different providers?

Yes, it is possible to combine your funded hours with unfunded hours. You can do this with one provider or with more than one provider.

If you decide to access funded and unfunded hours across more than one provider then the provider you choose to attend most of your hours with will be deemed the **priority provider** and will deliver the funded element.

Example

For example if you choose to access 20 hours a week with a local authority nursery and 10 hours a week with a different funded provider in model 1 to 4, the following would apply:

- 20 hours would be funded with the local authority nursery.
- 5 hours would be funded with the other provider nursery or childminder.
- 5 hours would be unfunded and payable at the provider's unfunded rate.

In this example, as the majority of the hours are with the local authority nursery, they are the **priority provider** and would deliver the funded element. Where it is an even split of exactly half and half across two providers, the local authority will deliver the funded element.

There are many different scenarios that could apply as families now have more choice and flexibility and there are 5 funded models to choose from. The key point to remember is that the provider you choose to access the majority of your hours from will deliver the funded element. If you have any queries and need help to work out your entitlement across different providers with different funded models, in the first instance, please contact the provider directly.



12 When will my child be eligible for a funded place?

Your child will be eligible for a funded place in the first term after their third birthday. Please see the table below for details.

Third birthday	Term Eligible for Funding
Age 3 between 1 March and 31 August	Term 1: Autumn term August – December
Age 3 between 1 September and 31 December	Term 2: Spring term January – March
Age 3 between 1 January and last day in February	Term 3: Summer term April – July

If your child becomes eligible for a funded place in term 2 (January) their entitlement to 1140 hours will be pro-rata for the remaining 2 terms. The same applies to a child that becomes eligible for a funded place in term 3 (April) their entitlement is pro-rata for the remaining 1 term.

Even though the number of weeks and total hours will be pro-rata, your child's weekly entitlement will still be either 25 hours a week in model 1 and 2 settings and 30 hours a week in model 3 and 4 settings. Settings offering the entitlement in a model 5 will advise the balance due to you for the pro-rata period remaining.

Please see **Appendix 2** for the pro-rata entitlement each term in models 1 to 4 for the year 2020/2021.

13 Can my child attend more than just the funded sessions in a local authority nursery?

Yes, subject to availability of places as we need to prioritise children accessing their funded hours first. Once admissions for the new academic year starting in August have been finalised in the preceding February/March, we will confirm your unfunded sessions with you and provide them until the end of your contract period.

You would also need to agree to our contract terms for funded and unfunded sessions. The nursery can advise you further on this.

Fees for unfunded sessions are available on Stirling Council's website. Fees for other funded provider nursery or with a childminder will vary and you should contact the provider directly for information.

14 What about meals and snacks?

All three and four year olds and eligible two year olds will be entitled to a free meal if they are in a setting for more than 4 hours. Your child is entitled to a free meal when attending a funded session with any funded provider. This includes local authority nurseries, and all other funded provider nurseries and childminders. A session is a full day or a half-day, morning or afternoon.

The National Standard guidance states a meal can be a light or main meal, a breakfast, lunch or an early evening meal. The meal need not be a hot meal but all meals and snacks must meet the most up to date nutritional guidance provided for ELC. Currently this is included in the NHS document called Setting the Table.

In local authority nurseries, meals and snacks will be provided as follows.

Free meal entitlement in a funded session

Lunch will be offered to children attending a funded full day session or a morning session. Children attending a funded afternoon session will be offered a light meal during the session.

Lunch costs in unfunded sessions

If your child is attending additional unfunded sessions, you can purchase a lunch from the nursery. The cost of a lunch in a local authority nursery is detailed on our website. The nursery can advise you about the process for paying for lunches.

You may still choose to provide a packed lunch if you prefer. You can do this during a funded or unfunded session.

Snacks

In addition to the free meal, all local authority nurseries will provide a morning snack and an afternoon snack. There will be no cost for this during a funded session. If you purchase additional unfunded sessions, the provision of snacks will be included in the session cost but you would still need to bring a packed lunch or purchase a lunch.

Meals in Other Funded Provider Settings

All funded provider nurseries and childminders will offer the free meal in a funded session. For the majority of providers this will be in the form of a lunch if your child is attending a full day or morning session, or light afternoon meal if your child is attending an afternoon only session. The free meal offer will be clearly detailed in their parent/carer information. If you are unsure about your child's free meal entitlement with any provider please contact them for clarification.

Other than the free meal entitlement, providers do not have to offer snacks or other meals free of charge even if your child is attending a funded session. The cost for any chargeable meals or snacks must be clear and transparent in their information for parents/carers.

15 What days or weeks will local authority nurseries be open and closed?

The open and closed dates for the next academic session for all nurseries in each model can be found on our website, <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/nurseryholidays>.

Model 1: 48.2 weeks

Settings in model 1 will be open 48.2 weeks a year, including over the summer.

Model 2: 45.6 weeks

Settings in model 2 will be open 45.6 weeks a year. They will be closed on the same days as the nurseries in model 1 with the exception of the summer holidays. Nurseries in model 2 will be closed for 2 weeks and 3 days over the summer (13 days). They will agree their closed periods together across the learning community and in consultation with families, to ensure they are not all closed at the same time. The closure period for each nursery in model 2 for summer 2021 will be advised to families no later than the end of term in December 2020.

Model 3 and 4: 38 weeks

Settings open 38 weeks a year will be closed out with term time in line with our primary school holiday closures.

16 Is my two year old eligible for a funded place?

Your two year old may be eligible for a funded place if you meet certain criteria.

Do I qualify?

Is your child aged 2 and do you get one of these benefits?

- Income Support (IS)
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income based)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit and your income is £16,105 or less
- Child tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and your income is £7,320 or less
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit and your household take-home pay is £610 a month or less

"Take-home pay" is the money your household receives from work after tax, National Insurance and any pension contributions have been taken off. Your award letter will tell you how much your take-home pay is for the claim period. This should be £610 or less.

Funded early learning and childcare is also available if your child is 2 or over and is, or has been:

- Looked after by a local council
- The subject of a kinship care order
- The subject of a guardianship order
- Entitlement to funded early learning and childcare provision is also available to 2 year olds whose parents are care experienced

Once your child qualifies for early learning and childcare, they will stay qualified. Even if you get a job, or their situation with a parent or carer changes.

Your 2 year old will be eligible for a funded place if:

- **Your child's birthday is on or between 1 March – 31 August**
They will be eligible from August (autumn term) that year
- **Your child's birthday is on or between 1 September – 31 December**
They will be eligible from January (spring term) following their birthday
- **If your child's birthday is on 1 January – last day of February**
They will be eligible from April (summer term) following their birthday

You can apply for a funded place for your 2 year old in one of the local authority nurseries listed below or with any funded provider childminders. Please contact the nursery directly. The Scottish Childminding Association can be contacted at:

SCMA (Scottish Childminding Association)

7 Melville Terrace
Stirling
FK8 2ND
01786 445377

Details of nurseries and childminders offering funded places is also available on the Stirling Council website.

Local authority nurseries offering funded places for eligible 2 year olds

Setting	Learning Community
Arnprior Nursery	Balfron
Croftamie Nursery*	Balfron
Cowie Nursery	Bannockburn
Park Drive Nursery	Bannockburn
Dunblane Primary School Nursery	Dunblane
Callander Primary School Nursery	McLaren
Crianlarich Nursery	McLaren
Doune Primary School Nursery	McLaren
Killin Nursery	McLaren
Baker Street Nursery	Stirling
Hillview Nursery	Stirling
Wellgreen Nursery	Stirling
Cornton Nursery	Wallace
Fallin Nursery	Wallace
Raploch Nursery	Wallace

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17 Can I get a nursery place if my child is under three?

You can get a nursery place for a child under three in many local authority nurseries and with funded provider nurseries and childminders.

There is no funding for children under three unless:

- They meet the eligibility criteria for 2 year olds as explained in section 16.
- They meet the exemptions criteria detailed in the Stirling Council Admissions and Charges Policy. This is available on our website.

In local authority nurseries, the session times, meals and operating hours and weeks will be the same for all children aged 0 to 5 years in the individual nursery. However, daily routines and specific care needs will vary for children under three and particularly for babies. The nursery can give you more information about this.

Admissions will depend on availability of places and is subject to agreement of payment and other terms and conditions. The cost of a nursery place in a local authority nursery for a child under three is available on our website.

Other funded providers will have their own fees and charges for children under three. This will be clearly detailed in their Admissions and Charging Policy. Please contact them directly for information.

18 What is the process for settling my child into a local authority nursery?

Our early years staff are very experienced and skilled in helping children to settle. However, during the settling in period it is a requirement that you, or another nominated adult, aged 16 years or over, is available to collect your child earlier than the agreed settling-in end time on the rare occasion this may be necessary.

Settling-in: Funded Sessions

Your funded hours will start from the first day of the term your child becomes eligible. For children who are eligible for funding in term 1 (August), settling-in will be arranged with you to take place over the summer before term starts. Children who are eligible in term 2 (January) and term 3 (April) will be settled in at the end of the term before they start.

We have a few local authority nurseries, funded provider nurseries and childminders that are open term-time only. As they are closed over the summer they will not be able to settle children in during the summer months before the new term starts in August.

In these settings parents/carers will be offered the option to settle their child in at the end of the last term in June. Alternatively, you can agree with the provider to settle your child in at the start of the new term in August. Please note, if you opt to do this, the settling-in sessions will be counted as your child's funded attendance.

Free settling in sessions

The number of settling in sessions will depend on your child's needs. Most children will not stay for a full 5 hour session to begin with. In most cases settling in sessions are 2 or 3 hours long. If you are accessing a funded or part funded place there is no charge for settling-in sessions in any local authority nursery or with any other funded provider. As these sessions are free, a maximum of five settling in sessions will be offered in a local authority nursery. However, exceptions to this can be agreed with the nursery and a few more free sessions may be offered if this is required to meet your child's needs.

Settling-in for children aged 0-3

Children aged 0-3 years who are not entitled to a funded place will be settled in agreement with the nursery. This will be based on your child's individual needs. All children take different times to settle and consideration will be given to supporting this. The first 5 sessions of settling-in will be free and any additional settling-in sessions, up to 10 in total, will only be charged on the basis of what is used, i.e., per hour used and not per session (5 hours block).

Settling-in with Other Funded Providers

Other funded providers will have their own settling-in policies which will detail how they manage the process. Please contact them directly for more information.

Transition

The majority of local authority nurseries will be open longer days and weeks minimising the number of transitions for children from one provider to another. However, if your child is accessing early learning with more than one provider, for example, attending some sessions with a local authority nursery and some with another funded provider or childminder, then both providers will give you a copy of their Transition Policy. This will describe how they will work together to ensure effective communication with you around your child and how they will jointly plan to ensure they meet your child's needs.

19 Can my child continue to receive ELC if I defer their school entry?

If your child is still 4 years old on the date they are due to start primary school, you can choose to defer your child's entry to primary school by a year.

If your child is deferring entry to school for a year, you can:

- automatically get an extra year of early learning and childcare funding if their 5th birthday is in January or February,
- apply to Stirling Council and request an extra year of funding if their 5th birthday is after the beginning of the autumn term in August, and before 1 January. We will decide if your child can get an extra year of funding. Even if your child is not granted an extra year of early learning and childcare funding, you can still choose to defer their entry to school for a year but this would be on an unfunded basis.

20 How do I apply for a childcare place?

To apply for a childcare place you should contact the local authority nursery or funded provider of your choice and request an application form. You can also download an application form from the Stirling Council website. There is one application form for all providers offering a funded place to 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds. Contact details for all funded providers, including childminders is available on our website.

When you have completed the application form, return it to the nursery or childminder. You can apply for a childcare place anytime throughout the year but applications are processed in accordance with the following timeline.

For the year starting August 2020 to August 2021:

- Applications received by the last day of February are considered all together.
- Admissions panels with representatives from all provider sectors meet in March/April to consider all applications received.
- Letters of notification are sent out to applicants in May.
- The majority of children will get their first choice of childcare setting, however, we cannot guarantee this. Where a local authority setting is oversubscribed, places will be allocated in accordance with the Stirling Council Admissions and Charging Policy.

If you apply after the last day in February, you will still get a childcare place but we may not be able to give you your first choice nursery or the exact sessions you would like. The offer of a place in a local authority nursery is not final until a contract has been issued and our terms and conditions have been accepted and signed.

And finally....

It is an exciting time of transitional change in early learning and childcare. Children will have access to more funded hours than ever before. There will also be more choice of providers and flexible models of provision.

We want Stirling to be a nurturing and respectful place for all children and young people, their families and communities. We aim to build on our existing high quality and flexible ELC provision and continue to create a service that is bold, forward thinking and delivers quality ELC that is tailored to the different needs of our children, our families and our communities.

If you have any further questions and should you wish to find out more about the expansion, please use the links below or contact the nursery/childminder directly.

21 Useful Links

- [The National Standard and Funding Follows the Child](#)
- [Stirling Council Early Learning and Childcare](#)
- [Scottish Childminding Association](#)

Local Authority Nursery Fees 2020/2021

Fees for unfunded sessions

Fees for unfunded sessions are subject to an annual increase review every year in August. The next increase review will be at the start of the new academic term August 2020. The most up to date fees are available on our website.

Fees will be calculated based on your child's weekly attendance pattern over the year. The nursery will calculate this at the time your child starts. The total amount due will be divided by 11 months and you will pay a fixed monthly fee.

If your child starts part way through the year, the fees will be divided by the number of months remaining from the start month to the end of June for a 45.6 week contract or to the end of July for a 48.2 week contract.

Payment for fees should be made monthly on the 15th of each month using the ParentPay system. The setting can provide you with details for doing this.

Fees for 48.2 week contract in model 1

All local authority nurseries in model 1 will be open 48.2 weeks a year. You will receive funding up to 45.6 weeks based on 25 funded hours a week. You can choose to contract with the nursery for 45.6 weeks or for the full 48.2 weeks.

If you contract for 48.2 weeks, the remaining 2.6 weeks (up to 65 hours) will be charged and payable monthly. Monthly payments will be calculated by the nursery based on your child's specific attendance pattern. The cost of the hours due will be divided by 11 months or pro-rata for the remainder of the contract period up to the end of July.

Payment should be made monthly using the ParentPay system. The setting can provide you with details for doing this.

Funded entitlement each term in models 1 to 4

In all models 1 to 5 your child's funding will start on the first day open to pupils in each term.

Model 1: 48.2 weeks				
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total
	12-Aug-20	05-Jan-21	12-Apr-21	12 Aug-20
	24-Dec-20	01-Apr-21	13-Aug-21	13-Aug-21
No. days open	92	61	88	241
No. weeks open	18.4	12.2	17.6	48.2
Hours per day	5	5	5	5
No. hours	460	305	440	1205
No. hours funded	460	305	440	1205
			Unfunded Diff	65

Model 2: 45.6 weeks				
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total
	12-Aug-20	05-Jan-21	12-Apr-21	12 Aug-20
	24-Dec-20	01-Apr-21	13-Aug-21	13-Aug-21
No. days open	92	61	75	228
No. weeks open	18.4	12.2	15	45.6
Hours per day	5	5	5	5
No. hours	460	305	375	1140
No. hours funded	460	305	375	1140
			Unfunded Diff	0

Note: There will be a 13 day closure over the summer for Model 2.

Model 3: 38 weeks (8 am – 6 pm)				
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total
	12-Aug-20	07-Jan-21	19-Apr-21	12 Aug-20
	23-Dec-20	01-Apr-21	25-Jun-21	25-Jun-21
No. days open	86	56	48	190
No. weeks open	17.2	11.2	9.6	38
Hours per day	6	6	6	6
No. hours	516	336	288	1140
No. hours funded	516	336	288	1140
			Unfunded Diff	0

Model 4: 38 weeks (9 am – 3 pm)				
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total
	12-Aug-20	07-Jan-21	19-Apr-21	12 Aug-20
	23-Dec-20	01-Apr-21	25-Jun-21	25-Jun-21
No. days open	86	56	48	190
No. weeks open	17.2	11.2	9.6	38
Hours per day	6	6	6	6
No. hours	516	336	288	1140
No. hours funded	516	336	288	1140
			Unfunded Diff	0

Model 5: 51 weeks				
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total
	12-Aug-20	05-Jan-21	5-Apr-21	12 Aug-20
	30-Dec-20	02-Apr-21	15-Aug-21	15-Aug-21
No. days open	99	64	97	260
No. weeks open	19.8	12.8	19.4	52
Hours per day	4.385	4.385	4.385	4.385
No. hours	434.115	280.64	425.345	1140
No. hours funded	434.115	280.64	425.345	1140
			Unfunded Diff	0

Note: There will be a 5 day closure over Christmas/New Year for Model 5.

Funded entitlement each term in models 1 to 5

Funded Models available in Stirling Council Local Authority Nurseries and with other Funded Providers and Childminders

Model 1 is available in some of Stirling Council local authority nurseries and in some funded provider nurseries. It is also available with some funded provider childminders. This entitles you 1140 funded hours a year from the start of term in August. This is offered as a maximum of 25 hours of funded childcare each week over 45.6 weeks. The balance of 2.6 weeks is unfunded and available to buy should you choose to do so.

Model 1: 48.2 weeks (8 am – 6 pm)									
No. funded hours per week	No. funded full day sessions (each day is 10 funded hours)	No. funded half day sessions (each session is 5 funded hours)	No. funded weeks per year	Total funded hours used per year	No. funded hours remaining	No. funded half day sessions remaining	No. funded full day sessions remaining	Total funded entitlement in hours per year	Total funded entitlement in half day sessions per year
5	0	1	45.6	228	912	182.4	91.2	1140	228
10	1	2	45.6	456	684	136.8	68.4	1140	228
15	1.5	3	45.6	684	456	91.2	45.6	1140	228
20	2	4	45.6	912	228	45.6	22.8	1140	228
25	2.5	5	45.6	1140	0	0	0	1140	228

Model 2 is available in the majority of Stirling Council local authority nurseries and in most funded provider nurseries. It is also available with most funded provider childminders. This entitles you 1140 funded hours a year from the start of term in August. This is offered as a maximum of 25 hours of funded childcare each week over 45.6 weeks.

Model 2: 45.6 weeks (8 am – 6 pm)									
No. funded hours per week	No. funded full day sessions (each day is 10 funded hours)	No. funded half day sessions (each session is 5 funded hours)	No. funded weeks per year	Total funded hours used per year	No. funded hours remaining	No. funded half day sessions remaining	No. funded full day sessions remaining	Total funded entitlement in hours per year	Total funded entitlement in half day sessions per year
5	0	1	45.6	228	912	182.4	91.2	1140	228
10	1	2	45.6	456	684	136.8	68.4	1140	228
15	1.5	3	45.6	684	456	91.2	45.6	1140	228
20	2	4	45.6	912	228	45.6	22.8	1140	228
25	2.5	5	45.6	1140	0	0	0	1140	228

Model 3 is available in some Stirling Council local authority nurseries that are open term-time 8am to 6pm. It may also be available with some funded provider childminders. This entitles you 1140 funded hours a year from the start of term in August. This is offered as a maximum of 30 hours a week of funded childcare over 38 weeks.

Model 3: 38 weeks (8 am – 6 pm)									
No. funded hours per week	No. funded full day sessions (each day is 10 funded hours)	No. funded half day sessions (each session is 5 funded hours)	No. funded weeks per year	Total funded hours used per year	No. funded hours remaining	No. funded half day sessions remaining	No. funded full day sessions remaining	Total funded entitlement in hours per year	Total funded entitlement in half day sessions per year
5	0	1	38	190	950	190	95	1140	228
10	1	2	38	380	760	152	152	1140	228
15	1.5	3	38	570	570	114	114	1140	228
20	2	4	38	760	380	76	76	1140	228
25	2.5	5	38	950	190	38	38	1140	228
30	3	6	38	1140	0	0	0	1140	228

Model 4 is available in some Stirling Council local authority nurseries and with some funded provider nurseries. It is also available with some funded provider childminders. This entitles you to 1140 funded hours a year from the start of term in August. This is offered as a maximum of 30 hours of funded childcare a week. There are no half day sessions in this model but the provider may agree to you attending for just a morning or afternoon. This would still count as 6 hours of your funded entitlement.

Model 4: 38 weeks (9 am – 3 pm)									
No. funded hours per week	No. funded full day sessions (each day is 10 funded hours)	No. funded half day sessions (each session is 5 funded hours)	No. funded weeks per year	Total funded hours used per year	No. funded hours remaining	No. funded half day sessions remaining	No. funded full day sessions remaining	Total funded entitlement in hours per year	Total funded entitlement in full day sessions per year
6	1	0	38	228	912	0	152	1140	190
12	2	0	38	456	684	0	114	1140	190
18	3	0	38	684	456	0	76	1140	190
24	4	0	38	912	228	0	38	1140	190
30	5	0	38	1140	0	0	0	1140	190

Model 5 is available in some funded provider nurseries. This entitles you to 22 hours and 20 minutes of funded childcare each week over 51 weeks. The provider will allow you to access your full entitlement with them if you choose to do so, without charging you any additional top up fees to round up a session. The balance of 2 hours and 20 minutes a week, over and above your 2 full days a week, will be offered as 12 additional funded days, pro rata, throughout the year and allocated to you as 4 funded days each term. You should agree the exact days directly with the providers.

Model 5: 51 weeks (8 am – 6 pm)									
No. funded hours per week	No. funded full day sessions (each day is 10 funded hours)	No. funded half day sessions (each session is 5 funded hours)	No. funded weeks per year	Total funded hours used per year	No. funded hours remaining	No. funded half day sessions remaining	No. funded full day sessions remaining	Total funded entitlement in hours per year	Total funded entitlement in half day sessions per year
5	0	1	51	255	885	188	89	1140	239.70
10	1	2	51	510	630	134	63	1140	239.70
15	1.5	3	51	765	375	80	38	1140	239.70
20	2	4	51	1020	120	26	12	1140	239.70
22.36	2.42	4.7	51	1140	0	0	0	1140	239.70

All About the Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare

	Date	Lead Officers(s)
Produced	November 2018	Patricia Stefanovic, Project Manager
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If you need help or this information
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