

ASH GREEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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FREE Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds

From September 2017 the Government is introducing an eligibility based additional 15 hours of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds. This means that all 3 and 4 year old children will access the universal 15 hours entitlement but some children will be able to access an additional 15 hours – if their parent(s) meet the proposed eligibility criteria.

In order to prepare to be able to meet the needs of families and children, it is important to gather information of the potential number of families in our school community that will be eligible and what their needs would be with regards to deciding how they would use the additional hours.

We would greatly appreciate your support in responding to the survey by answering the questions overleaf. The response can be anonymous and if you give your details they will not be used for any other purpose than the collation of information for the introduction of 30 hours of childcare. Any data published from responses will always be anonymous.

Thank you for your help – please return any responses to the school office by **Friday 5 May 2017**.

Background information

The free hours offer

All 3 and 4 year olds currently receive 570 hours of free early education or childcare a year, this is based on 15 hours a week for 38 weeks a year and is a universal offer which is the child's entitlement. The additional hours being introduced from September 2017, are based on the parent (s) of the child meeting an eligible criteria. If eligible the child will be able to receive an additional 570 hours, a total of 1140 hours per year. The maximum number of hours that can be claimed each week is 30 hours, but the hours can be spread (stretched) over fewer hours per week for more weeks, e.g. 22.8 hours a week for 50 weeks a year.

Schools will not have to offer the additional hours themselves but may choose to work with other providers to give parents flexible options.

Proposed eligibility criteria

Both parents/carers resident in a household or sole parent in a single parent household currently work and **each** earns at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the, relevant minimum wage (currently £115.00 for over 25 year olds which equates to £5,980 per year) and under £100,000 per year per parent.

Where parents are self-employed or on a zero or variable hours contract average earnings will be assessed.

Where one parent is in receipt of benefits relating to a significant caring role or DLA and the other parent works the family will also be eligible if work earnings fall within the range.

Some examples of not meeting eligible criteria

- Parent 1 earns £50,000 a year. Parent 2 does not work
- Sole parent does not work
- Parent 1 earns £120,000 a year, parent 2 earns £10,000

Some examples of meeting the eligibility criteria

- Parent 1 earns £30,000 a year, parent 2 cannot work and receive Disability Living Allowance
- Sole parent earns £12,000 a year
- Parent 1 earns £90,000 parent 2 earns £60,000

Survey Questions

Name: _____

Please only complete once for each family

We are interested in a wider picture of how parents would use the additional hours and we would like your views even if your child is not currently of the relevant age (3 or 4 year old) or currently in the school nursery.

Eligibility – please tick the answer that applies		Yes	No	Not sure	Not Applicable
1	From the criteria shown above, would your family be eligible for the additional hours?				
2	If your family would not be eligible due to one or more parent earning below the threshold or not working, would they look to start or increase work due to funding being available?				
3	If your family would not be eligible would it be due to one or more parent earning over the threshold?				
4	If your family would not be eligible are they most likely to remain not eligible?				
5	Are any parents in your family working or earning variable amounts and may fall in and out of eligibility?				
6	Would you need childcare in school holidays in addition to term time?				
7	Would you need more than 30 hours early education/childcare hours a week?				
Please tick to show which potential option(s) you would consider to be suitable to your needs or preferred option. Please select 'None' if the option is not suitable		Yes	No	Not Sure	None
a	School Nursery offering 30 hours a week, term time sessions only				
b	School nursery offering 15 hours a week, term time only and additional funded sessions in an on-site breakfast club, after school club or lunchtime				

Thank you for your time in completing this survey, the information is really valuable to us.

Please return any responses to the school office by Friday 5 May 2017.

The Department of Employment has not yet finalised all of the criteria for eligibility and conditions around the introduction of 30 hours childcare. For the latest information available please visit the gov.uk. website or Calderdale Council website.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/30-hours-free-childcare-eligibility

www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/education-and-learning/childcare/childcare-funding/free-education-three-and-four-year-olds