

Guidance for Parents at Atherton House School



9 Month Funding Guide

15 hours Working Family Funding Entitlement

Applicable to the 2024/2025 Academic Year

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1. Government Funding Explained

September 2024		9 months - 2 years	2 - 3 years	3 - 4 years
Entitlement	All Parents	-	-	15 hours
	Working Families	15 hours	15 hours	30 hours
	Families with special circumstances	-	15 hours	
September 2025		9 months - 2 years	2 - 3 years	3 - 4 years
Entitlement	All Parents	-	-	15 hours
	Working Families	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours
	Families with special circumstances	-	15 hours	

Am I eligible for 15-hour 9-month-old funding?

Your child will be eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare if:

- You're working at least 16 hours a week
- You each earn less than £100,000 a year

You can still apply for working family funded childcare if you're:

- On paid sick leave.
- On paid ordinary or additional maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or getting Maternity Allowance, for another child.
- On paid shared parental leave.
- On paid annual leave.

You can read more about this on the government website: childcarechoices.gov.uk

2. When to Apply

You might be wondering when your child will be able to use the 15 hours of government funding. It's all down to when their birthday falls, so make sure you plan ahead. You'll be able to apply the term after they turn 9 months. For Working Family Funding, you'll need to apply online for an eligibility code.

Working family funding for when the child becomes eligible	
Recommended time to apply for eligibility code:	Last date to apply for Eligibility code:
15th October to 30th November	by 31st December to be funded from 1st January
15th January to 28th February	by 31st March to be funded from 1st April
15th June to 31st July	by 31st August to be funded from 1st September

Please Remember

Every three months, sign into your HMRC childcare account to reconfirm your working family funding eligibility code. If you forget, you might lose your funding for the following term, which means you'll have to pay our standard fees.

3. How to Apply

Working family funded childcare – (15 hours)

The process for working family funding takes around 20 minutes – so make sure you have time set aside to do it properly. We've explained it below.

1. Visit the government website: [gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working](https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working)
2. Provide your supporting documents, like your child's passport.
3. Apply for your eligibility code. You'll need your National Insurance number too.
4. Wait for a decision. It might be instant but can take up to seven days.
5. Submit your eligibility code via our Funding Loop Portal alongside the Parental Declaration Form
6. **Reconfirm your eligibility every three months**

Every term, we'll need you to sign our funding terms and conditions and complete a local authority Parental Declaration form. We can then carry on claiming funding for your child's place at nursery.

4. Funding Loop

What is Funding Loop?

Funding Loop is an online platform designed to simplify the completion of Parental Declaration forms required to claim Early Years Funding for your child. Traditionally, these forms are paper-based and require multiple rounds of printing, distribution, completion, and return. We understand that this process can be time-consuming for both parents and our team.

With Funding Loop, you now have the ability to complete and submit these forms online, using either a computer or a mobile device, at your convenience. The best part is that a significant portion of the information required is already known to the nursery, having been provided during the registration process. This means that most of the form is pre-populated, requiring you only to fill in any necessary blanks, sign electronically, and submit. Additionally, Funding Loop remembers the information entered, making future form submissions even more efficient.

What Funding Loop is NOT:

It's important to note that Funding Loop is not affiliated with your Local Authority. It is a tool that simplifies the completion of Parental Declaration forms for both parents and the nursery.

Please be aware that Funding Loop will not re-check 15-hour codes every three months for eligible parents. It is the responsibility of parents to revalidate their codes with HMRC every three months to continue receiving extended hours funding.

Is Funding Loop Secure? Absolutely, Funding Loop places a high priority on security and have undergone independent testing by third-party security experts. You can find more information about the technology used and privacy policies on their website: <https://www.fundingloop.info> (link at the bottom of the website).

What do you need to do?

You will receive a secure link via email from the nursery when your application window opens to apply for funding. This allows you to fill in the Parental Declaration form online at your convenience. This not only makes the process more straightforward but also significantly faster, as most of the information is already pre-filled. Funding Loop also incorporates built-in validation to minimise the likelihood of any issues arising later on. Ultimately, the less time spent on administrative tasks, the more time we can dedicate to enhancing the nursery experience for your child.

5. Childcare Costs

Online Fee Calculator

For bespoke pricing please visit our [online fee calculator](#).

Should you need further assistance, please feel free to contact our Accounts Manager Clare Pitts directly via email at clare.pitts@athertonhousegroup.co.uk or phone 0161 274 9961.

In an attempt to make it as accurate as possible you do need to ensure you enter the funding correctly for each term. This is especially important for children who are due to move from 2 year to 3 year funding during the next academic year.

All calculations are for illustrative purposes only. We recommend you speak directly to your Nursery Manager who can provide tailored information to meet your individual circumstances.

Optional extras over and above basic funded provision provided with stretched bookings which contribute to the consumable charge.

The list below is not an exhaustive list but identifies optional extras we provide over and above the basic provision to you child which are not covered by the funding rate.

These are just what they sound like: all the essentials like food and toiletries, along with those enriching additions that make our nursery unique. The government funding isn't meant to cover the costs of things like these, so like most nurseries, we'll ask you to contribute towards them. But when you see what you're paying for, we think you'll understand:

- Nappies
- Wipes
- Breakfast (Nutritionally balanced)
- Lunch (Nutritionally balanced home cooked meals)
- 2x snacks per day (Nutritionally balanced)
- Sun Cream
- Sun hats
- Online Learning Journals – eyLog
- Parent App
- Parents' evenings
- Mothers' Day Event
- Fathers' Day Event
- Christmas Party
- Graduation
- External activity providers
- Language Lessons
- 100 % Paediatric 1st aid trained staff
- Professional photographer
- Pre-School Information Evening
- Free Settling-In Sessions
- Multi agency working (Required by Statutory Framework but not funded by EEF)
- Routine 1 to 1 sessions with Room Leader
- Multiple Excursions/Trips using our own 17-seat minibus

6. How your invoice looks

How is my 15 hours spread over 50 weeks at Atherton House?

Eligible working parents are entitled to 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the academic year (Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms). At Atherton House we stretch this offer over 50 weeks of the year (September to August).

The equal spreading and the numbers of hours per week is based on when your child becomes eligible.

Eligible from	Autumn Term (14 weeks)	Spring Term (11 weeks)	Summer Term (13 weeks)	Total Funded Hours
September	15 x 14 = 210	15 x 11 = 165	15 x 13 = 195	570
January	N/A	15 x 11 = 165	15 x 13 = 195	360
April	N/A	N/A	15 x 13 = 195	195

Example

Johnny attends 2 days a week (21 hours) and is eligible for 15 hours funding from the Autumn Term:

Funded hours are calculated as follows:

15 (hours) x 38 (weeks) / 50 weeks (Sept - Aug) = 11.4 funded hours per week.

Fees payable =

Funded Hours: 11.4 per week = £0

Consumable Charge: 11.4 hours x £2.10 = £23.94

Unfunded Hours: (21-11.4) x £7.19(hourly rate) = £69.03

Weekly Cost to Parent: Consumable Charge + Unfunded Hours = £92.97

Monthly Equally Spread Invoice = £92.97 x 50 weeks / 12 = £387.38