



## Funding and financial support for children in nursery



Depending on the age of your child and your family's circumstances, there are several types of funding and financial support available to help with the costs of your child attending nursery. More information about all of these options can be found at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk), other websites are listed as relevant.

### Funding

- **15 hours** per week free childcare/ early years education for 2 year olds from families receiving some forms of support. Available from the start of the term after your child's second birthday. Visit <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/early-education-places-and-funding#twoyearolds> to see if you are eligible for this funding.
- **15 hours** per week free childcare/ early years education for **all** 3-4 year olds. Available from the start of the term after your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

OR

- **30 hours** per week free childcare/ early years education for 3-4 year olds from working families. To qualify for this funding, you, and any partner must be working 16 hours a week, and earning less than £100,000 per year. You may still be eligible if you are on maternity/paternity/adoption leave, or are unable to work due to disability or caring responsibilities. Apply online through [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

### Other financial support

- **Tax-free childcare** – for children from working families. For every £8 you pay in to your Tax-free childcare account, the government will add an extra £2 (up to £2000 per child per year). Apply online through [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to join this scheme.
  - If you use this scheme to pay your Athelstan childcare invoices, **please e mail us** ([admin@athelstan.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@athelstan.n-yorks.sch.uk)) to let us know you've made a payment, listing the invoice(s) and amount(s) paid.

- This scheme will eventually replace childcare vouchers (see below); the two cannot be used together. You cannot use Tax-free childcare at the same time as Tax credits for childcare or Universal credits for childcare.
- **Childcare vouchers** – these are offered by some employers, and allow you to pay for childcare before tax and National Insurance deductions are made from your salary. All childcare voucher schemes will be closed to new members from April 2018; existing members will be able to continue using childcare vouchers to pay for childcare for as long as their employers offer them.
- **Tax credits for childcare** – if you (and any partner) are working at least 16 hours per week and are entitled to working tax credit, you can claim back up to 70% of eligible childcare costs. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/claim-tax-credits> for more information. You cannot claim Tax credits for childcare at the same time as Tax-free Childcare or Universal credits for childcare.
- **Universal credits for childcare** – if you (and any partner) are working, or due to start work, and you are claiming Universal Credit, you can claim back up to 85% of childcare costs. You cannot claim Universal credit for childcare at the same time as Tax-free childcare or Tax credits for childcare.
- **Support while you study**
  - If you are in further education and were under 20 at the start of your course, you may be able to receive weekly payments towards the cost of childcare through Care 2 Learn. For more information, see [https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn?utm\\_source=childcarechoices&utm\\_medium=microsite](https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn?utm_source=childcarechoices&utm_medium=microsite)
  - If you are in further education and were over 20 at the start of your course (e.g. studying for an NVQ, BTEC or PGCE), you may be able to apply for discretionary learner support to pay for childcare. For more information, see [https://www.gov.uk/discretionary-learner-support?utm\\_source=childcarechoices&utm\\_medium=microsite](https://www.gov.uk/discretionary-learner-support?utm_source=childcarechoices&utm_medium=microsite)
  - If you are in full time higher education, you can apply for a childcare grant to pay for childcare costs. For more information, see [https://www.gov.uk/childcare-grant?utm\\_source=childcarechoices&utm\\_medium=microsite](https://www.gov.uk/childcare-grant?utm_source=childcarechoices&utm_medium=microsite)

## Pupil Premium Funding

Three and four year old children from families in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to Pupil Premium funding. If you think your child may be eligible, please contact the school office or Early Years Office for more information. As well as generating additional funding for the school, Pupil Premium funding entitles three and four year old children to

- free school meals up to twice a week: the child must attend the morning and afternoon sessions either side of those meals; the school also covers the cost of the lunchtime session during which a free school meal is taken. A child with Pupil Premium Funding can thus attend two full days (8.40-3.10pm) and one half day (8.40-11.40am) in nursery, using their 15 hours funding, without being charged for anything but snacks (£0.25 per session).
- A uniform voucher worth £30 per year, to be used towards the cost of the school jumpers/cardigans sold in school.
- Up to £30 per term towards the cost of after school activities (e.g. dance, football) and trips/ in-school extras (e.g. Christmas show).