



The Children's House

Early Education Funding Policy

This policy should be reviewed biennially and as required by legislation.		
Action	Reviewer	Date
Review	TH/AS	Dec 2025
Approved by Chair of COM	BDB	Dec 2025
Date for next internal review		Dec 2026

Our School Vision

We are a caring community where everyone adopts a positive attitude; everyone feels valued and safe. We celebrate our individuality, achievements and talents and aspire to become the best that we can be.

In the Early Years, our aim is to make high-quality education accessible and access to funding transparent. This policy explains clearly how The Children's House School delivers the *Early Education Entitlement* for eligible children in accordance with Islington Council's Early Years Funding Guidance.

Introduction

The Children's House School offers government-funded early education places for children aged 3 and 4 years, in line with the national 15-hour Universal Entitlement and the 30-hour Extended Entitlement for eligible working families.

This policy outlines:

- How the funded hours are delivered within our school day.
- What is covered by government funding and what is not.
- How we ensure fairness, clarity and compliance with the Islington Council Code of Practice from 1 January 2026.



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Funding Overview

- 15 Hours Universal Entitlement: All 3- and 4-year-old children are eligible for up to 15 hours of funded early education per week, for 38 weeks per year.
- 30 Hours Extended Entitlement: Eligible working families may access up to 30 hours of funded education per week, for 38 weeks per year.

Eligibility for the extended entitlement is determined by HMRC. Parents must apply through the Government's *Best Start in Life* portal and provide a valid code before the start of each funded term. More information can be found [here](#).

How Funded Hours Are Offered at The Children's House School from January 2026

- Our funded hours are allocated to the afternoon sessions: 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Monday to Friday, during term time.
- The morning session (8:45 am – 12:00 pm) and any additional hours outside this timeframe are chargeable.
- Parents may choose to access *funded hours only* by enrolling their child in the afternoon session.
- Alternatively, parents may choose to extend their child's attendance to include the morning session and/or wraparound provision, which is subject to our published fee structure.

What is and isn't included in funded hours

The funded entitlement covers the early years education provision during the hours of 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

The following **are not** covered by government funding and will be charged separately:

- Morning sessions (8:45 am – 12:00 pm).
- Additional hours or wraparound care outside 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm.
- Lunch provision
- Extra-curricular activities
- Consumables such as uniform



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Summary table

Before Jan 2026	From Jan 2026
<p>15 hours funded any hours or days during the week</p> <p>Invoices from us state the termly fee, minus the 15 hours</p>	<p>15 hours - funded 3 hours per day, Monday – Friday, by allocated “session”, at TCH, these hours are from 12-3pm. Parents must choose the afternoon session to access the entitlement.</p> <p>Invoices from us will state the termly fees, minus the funded sessions. If a pupil only attends Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, parents will only now be entitled to 3 funded sessions and will lose out on 6 hours of funded care.</p>
<p>30 hours funded any hours or days during the week</p> <p>Invoices from us state the termly fee, minus the 30 hours</p>	<p>30 hours - funded 6 hours per day, Monday – Friday, by allocated “session”, at TCH, these hours are from 12-6pm. Parents must choose this session to access the entitlement.</p> <p>Invoices from us will state the termly fees, minus the funded sessions. If a pupil only attends Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, parents will only now be entitled to 3 funded sessions and will lose out on 12 hours of funded care.</p>

Eligibility and Admissions

- Parents must provide their child’s birth certificate and (where applicable) a valid 30-hour eligibility code, national insurance number, and proof of address.
- Codes must be renewed and validated each term to maintain eligibility.
- The funded hours will be offered in line with our [term dates](#).
- Where a child attends another provider, we will confirm with Islington Council that the funding does not exceed the maximum entitlement and is not being accessed twice.

Transparency and Communication

The school is committed to transparency in how we apply government funding.

- Parents receive a clear funding declaration form showing how hours are allocated and what costs (if any) apply outside the funded period.



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- All invoices and correspondence will clearly show which hours are funded and which are chargeable.
- The policy is available on our [website](#) and provided to parents prior to enrolment.

Monitoring and Compliance

The SLT and Finance Officer will ensure the policy is implemented in line with Islington Council's requirements.

The school will:

- Maintain accurate attendance and funding records.
- Complete termly headcount submissions as required.
- Ensure parents receive timely reminders to renew codes.
- Cooperate fully with any local authority audits or reviews.

Links with Other Policies

- Admissions Policy
- Bursary and Hardship Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equality Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Review

This Policy was reviewed and approved by the Council of Management in December 2025. It will be reviewed again in December 2026, or sooner if required by changes in local or national funding guidance.

Agreed by _____ Brodie Bibby _____ Chair of the Council of Management.