



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL

Downsend School - Free Early Education Funding

Free childcare for working parents

All three and four year olds living in England are entitled to 570 hours of free early education and childcare a year. This is usually offered as 15 hours a week for up to 38 weeks a year and is a universal entitlement. It can be claimed the term after your child's third birthday up until they reach compulsory school age. The funding is provided by Surrey County Council and further information can be found at: www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/family-information-service.

From September 2017 the government will be increasing the free hours from 15 to 30 a week for children of working families who meet the eligibility criteria. These changes will be introduced as part of the Childcare Act 2016.

Downsend School and FEE

15 Free Hours

Downsend School remains committed to Free Early Education (FEE) and continues to offer the 15 hours free early entitlement (FEE) across 35 weeks of the 38 week entitlement. (Downsend Pre-Prep schools are open for 34.8 weeks a year)

The maximum FEE that can be claimed with us is 15 hours per week. Childcare Providers are able to set their own hours and Downsend School supports a maximum of 3 hours per session to be claimed. Please be aware that the 15 hour FEE funding only covers part of our fees and additional charges are payable.

30 Free Hours

Downsend School is not in a position to support the extension of FEE funding to 30 hours from 15 in September 2017. Our Downsend Nurseries are so much more than day care providers in that they are able to draw from the excellent teaching provided throughout the school, enabling us to offer:

- A wider curriculum
- Additional services e.g. French, Music and sports tuition
- Access to first-rate facilities e.g. Mother & Toddler swimming at Main Site
- A 'best practice' environment, where skills are shared across EYFS and KS1

Headmaster: Mr Ian Thorpe

1 Leatherhead Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8TJ • **Main Office:** 01372 372197 • **Admissions Registrar:** 01372 372311

Finance: 01372 374842 • **Email:** office@downsend.co.uk • **Web:** www.downsend.co.uk

COGNITA
TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Downsend School is part of the Cognita Schools Group www.cognitaschools.co.uk

Registered in England: Cognita Limited trading as Downsend School No. 2313425. Registered Office: Seebeck House, One Seebeck Place, Milton Keynes MK5 8FR.



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Moving to 30 hours would affect our ability to provide the high quality of education, small class sizes, good staff:pupil ratios and to continue to develop the facilities that we and our parents expect from Downsend School. This position is supported by the Independent School Council's (ISC) recommendation, which will be reviewed in 2018.

Applying for FEE

Once your child turns three, school will send out the appropriate Registration Form which must be completed and returned to the Office, along with your child's Passport or Birth Certificate. You will also be sent Declaration Forms to complete at the beginning of each year to confirm you are still eligible.

Parents should be aware that the funding will have already been deducted from your termly bill when you receive it.

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