

COGNITA

EYFS FUNDING



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL

December 2025

UK

Little Downsend EYFS Funding Policy

Downsend School is a registered provider under the Early Education Funding scheme for eligible children from *9 months old through to the term of their 5th birthday. This entitles parents up to 15 hours per week of funding, up to a maximum of 570 hours each year, delivered over 34 weeks of the year split into three Funding Blocks. The first Funding Block starts the term following their *9th month, *2nd birthday, or 3rd birthday.

Downsend School offers up to 15 hours of entitlement funding; there are no plans to extend the scheme beyond 15 hours per week.

Eligibility is based on the birth date of the child as follows:

A child born between 1st April and 31st August (inclusive) will be eligible from the start of the Autumn Funding Block from their *9th month, *2nd or 3rd birthday.

A child born between 1st September and 31st December (inclusive) will be eligible from the start of the Spring Funding Block from their *9th month, *2nd or 3rd birthday.

A child born between 1st January and 31st March (inclusive) will be eligible from the start of the Summer Funding Block from their *9th month, *2nd or 3rd birthday.

*Nine-month and Two-year-old funding can only be applied where a valid code confirming eligibility is provided to the school before the start of the term.

New parents must complete a consent and declaration form supplied by the local authority in respect of any child for whom the Early Education Funding Entitlement is being claimed.

Within each Nursery day, a maximum of six hours (from 09:00am to 15:00pm) will be provided as Early Years Funded hours to those children who qualify for the Early Years Grant. The additional hours for each session in excess of the Early Years Funded Entitlement will be charged at the normal rate for each separate session.

Offers:

In order to qualify for Early Education Funding a child must attend a minimum of four Nursery sessions each week. Places for any session are not guaranteed, are strictly subject to availability, staffing ratios and are granted on a 'first come, first served' basis. The school reserves the right to withdraw from this scheme at any time.

Availability is assessed on an ongoing basis, considering any leavers or room moves. We will inform you if a place becomes available. If your child does not receive a place to start at the requested time, they will remain on the waiting list until a place becomes available or until you request for them to be removed.

Acceptance of a place:

When you are offered an Early Education funded place, you will be given 48 hours to accept the place. If you do not accept the place within this timeframe, we will offer the place to the next family on our waiting list.

Invoicing & additional services

For children attending the Nursery on the 15 hours entitlement funding basis, this will be shown as zero cost on each invoice submitted to parents in respect of Nursery or Reception fees.

Please note that while 38 weeks Early Education funding is allocated by the council, families may only access 34 weeks of funding as Downsend school operates for 34 weeks in a given academic year.

Additional services such as meals, snacks, consumables such as nappies and sun cream and services such as trips, tea clubs, holiday clubs and specialist tuition are also not included in the Early Years Funded Entitlement. Optional extras/ additional services booked by parents will be billed termly.

It is the policy at Downsend School to encourage all children to eat the food provided by the School and Nursery. This is a safeguarding measure designed to reduce the risk from hazards such as allergens (we are a 'nut free' setting), food poisoning and choking. In addition, the policy helps us combat food inequality, promote communal, healthy eating and enables us to embed mealtimes within the wider curriculum, where children learn about specific foodstuffs and then eat them. It also encourages children to use cutlery and to enjoy the whole dining experience in readiness for moving into compulsory education.

Notice of Withdrawal

Written notice of the removal of a pupil must be received by the Head 3 full calendar months before it is to take effect. In the absence of the appropriate written notice, the School fee for the following term must be paid and the fee deposit will be offset against any outstanding fees due.

Dated: 19th December 2025

Signed: 

Head of Little Downsend

APPENDIX 1

FEES PAGE [Downsend School Fees - All Student Fees & School Costs](#)

Early Education Funding (EYF) for eligible pupils

Downsend School is pleased to offer 15 hours of entitlement funding under the Governments Early Education funding.

Nine-month-olds, Two, Three and Four year olds can claim their 15 hours of entitlement funding at Downsend School from the term after their Ninth Month, Second or Third birthday. All hours in addition to the Early Years Funded Entitlement are charged at the advertised rate and are also payable via Childcare Vouchers.

Option 1 (inclusive of 15 funded hours at £0.00):

Fees in this option are for parents wishing to book additional sessions which are inclusive of morning snacks, local school trips and events.

Additional sessions (Spring 2025)	Termly
Bright Beginners and Early Learners (Full-time)	£3,644.13
Bright Beginners and Early Learners (Part-time – 1 Full day)	£351.85
First Steps and Rising Reception (Full-time)	£4,526.13
First Step and Rising Reception (Part-time – 1 Full day)	£1,087.25
Refundable Deposit	£100
Registration Fee	£150

Option 2:

The 15 hours of funded entitlement is available for parents wishing to access the funded hours only. This option does not include school trips/ events. These are considered optional additional services which are billed termly.

15 hours funded entitlement only	Termly
Maxium of 15 hours funded entitlement per week between 9:00am – 15:00pm (<i>11 weeks per term</i>)	£0.00
Trips & Specialist Activities	Price varies
Refundable Deposit	£50
Registration Fee	N/A