



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL

EYFS FUNDING

June 2026

UK

COGNITA

Little Downsend EYFS Funding Policy

Downsend School is a registered provider under the Early Education Funding scheme for eligible children from the term following their 9-month, 2nd or 3rd birthday through to the term of their 5th birthday.

Downsend School offers up to 15 funded hours per week to eligible children, up to a maximum of 570 funded hours per academic year. Funding is delivered over 34 weeks of the year, in line with the School's academic calendar and split across three Funding Blocks.

Whilst some children may be eligible for a greater number of funded hours under Government funding schemes, Downsend School's funded entitlement offer is limited to a maximum of 15 funded hours per week.

Eligibility

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

- Children born between 1 April and 31 August (inclusive) become eligible from the Autumn Funding Block following their 9-month, 2nd or 3rd birthday.
- Children born between 1 September and 31 December (inclusive) become eligible from the Spring Funding Block following their 9-month, 2nd or 3rd birthday.
- Children born between 1 January and 31 March (inclusive) become eligible from the Summer Funding Block following their 9-month, 2nd or 3rd birthday.

Funding for eligible 9-month and 2-year-old children can only be claimed where a valid eligibility code has been provided to the School before the start of the relevant term.

Parents must complete all declaration and consent forms required by the Local Authority before funding can be claimed.

Accessing Funded Hours

Funded hours are available during the core Nursery day between 9:00am and 3:00pm.

Each funded Nursery session is three hours in duration:

Morning Session: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Afternoon Session: 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Eligible children may access funded hours in continuous blocks between 9:00am and 3:00pm, up to a maximum of 15 funded hours per week.

In order to access funded hours at Downsend School, children must attend a minimum of four Nursery sessions per week, equivalent to 12 hours of attendance.

Any attendance outside the funded period, or in excess of a child's funded entitlement, will be charged at the applicable Nursery session rate.

Availability of Places

Funded places are subject to availability and staffing ratios and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Availability is reviewed on an ongoing basis, taking account of leavers, room moves and operational requirements. Where a funded place is not immediately available, a child may remain on the waiting list until a place becomes available or until the parent requests removal from the list.

The School reserves the right to withdraw from the Early Education Funding scheme at any time.

Acceptance of a Funded Place

When offered a funded place, parents will have 48 hours to accept the offer. If acceptance is not received within this timeframe, the place may be offered to another family.

Invoices and Additional Services

Funded hours will be clearly identified on parent invoices and shown at a cost of £0.00.

Please note that whilst Local Authority funding is generally calculated over 38 weeks, Downsend School operates for 34 weeks each academic year. Accordingly, funded hours may only be accessed during the School's 34-week academic year.

Meals, Snacks and Consumables

Meals and snacks are provided by the School as part of the nursery children's daily provision and are included at no extra charge.

Parents are responsible for providing personal consumables required for their child, such as nappies, wipes and sun cream.

Optional Extras

Services such as trips, before and after school clubs, holiday clubs and specialist tuition are not included within the Early Years Funded Entitlement.

Participation in any trip or additional activity is entirely voluntary. Parents may choose whether or not to purchase or participate in such activities.

Where a child does not participate in an optional activity taking place during the funded hours, Downsend School will ensure that the child continues to receive suitable provision that meets the requirements of the EYFS curriculum. Alternative arrangements will be determined by the Nursery according to the nature and timing of the activity.

Optional extras and additional services booked by parents will be charged separately and billed termly.

Deposits

No registration fee is charged for children accessing funded hours only.

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Where a refundable deposit has been paid in relation to a funded-only place, the deposit will be returned once the School has received the first funded payment from the Local Authority, provided the child has taken up the place as agreed.

Notice of Withdrawal

Written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Head at least three full calendar months before the intended leaving date.

Where the required notice is not given, fees in lieu of notice may be charged in accordance with the School's Terms and Conditions.

For families accessing the Early Years Funding entitlement, this three-month notice period applies only where additional private hours are also being purchased. Where a family accessing funded hours only wishes to leave mid-term in order to access their funded entitlement with another provider, they must give notice before the start of the funded period by completing the relevant section of the Declaration Form, which allows the funding to be transferred mid-term.

Dated: 17th June 2026



Signed: James McCarthy-Michell

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	N/A
Registration Fee	N/A