



Extended entitlement for working parents/carers

Dear parents/carers,

As you will be aware from 1st of September 2017 working parents may be entitled to 30 hours free childcare. A new online application is due to be launched at the end of April 2017. (Parents will be invited by HMRC to apply for the 30 hours and tax free childcare.) Once confirming you are eligible for the 30 hours HMRC will issue you with an 11 digit eligibility number in which you will take to the childcare provider of your choice.

In Wigan we are delivering the extended entitlement for working parents through a cluster based approach where by childcare providers will work together to offer flexibility and choice for parents, so for example a childminder or private and voluntary provider may work in partnership with a maintained nursery school to offer the entitlement to parents beyond the school day.

Should you require any further information to support your access to thirty hours childcare please refer to the Family Information Service website at <http://fsd.wigan.gov.uk/kb5/wigan/fsd/home.page> or contact the Early Learning and Childcare Team on 01942 828849

Parents of three and four year olds will need to meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for 30 hours free childcare:

- They earn or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage over the coming three months.
- This equates to £120 a week (or c.£6,000 a year) for each parent over 25 years old or £112.80 a week (or c.£5,800 a year) for each parent between 21 and 24 years old.
- This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on zero hours contract.
- The parent (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the free childcare to enable them to work.
- Where one or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- Where one parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work.
- Where a parent is in a 'start-up period' (i.e. they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months.
- If a non-EEA national, the parent must have recourse to public funds.

A parent will not meet the criteria when:

- Either parent has an income of more than £100,000
- Either parent is a non-EEA national and subject to immigration control (and has no recourse to public funds)

What happens if a parent loses eligibility?

- They will receive a 'grace period' – this means they will be able to keep their childcare for a short period.
- Once the 'grace period' has lapsed, the parent may be entitled to the universal 15-hour entitlement.

'Never settle for less than your best'

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

The government have released comprehensive information for parents around the extended childcare offer including new funding schemes to support with Childcare Costs at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Childcare Choices brings together all the government childcare offers in one place for the first time. The new Childcare Choices website makes it easy to find out what's on offer.

Use the Childcare Calculator at www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator to see what offers are available to support you and your family. As well as current schemes, Childcare Choices introduces Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours – two new offers that are coming in 2017. Should you require any further information please contact our School Business Manager, Mrs Smith.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Grogan
Headteacher

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