

SCHOOLS FORUM

SUBJECT	Early Years Entitlements Funding
DATE OF MEETING	18th March 2026
REPORT OF	Corrinne Wilson, Early Years Sufficiency Officer

Early Years Entitlements Update for Schools Forum

Early Years Entitlements Funding – EY DSG

In December 2025 the government announced the funding rates for the early years entitlements funding for 2026-27. The Early Years and finance teams have assessed the allocations and analysed local data and projections and have determined that 2.75% of the hourly rates are to be retained to cover the costs of administering the funding and supporting the sector and community to ensure NELC meets its statutory responsibilities.

The annual funding consultation was undertaken for providers to decide on their preferred options for the deprivation rate, which will also determine the hourly rates. The consultation also asked them to respond with their preferred the payment schedule

Consultation outcome

Q.1 Early Years Entitlements Funding formula

Option 2 is preferred with **58%** of the vote

The hourly rates for 2026-27 are confirmed as

Funding Stream	Standard Hourly Rate
3 & 4 year olds EYE	£5.98
2 year olds EYE	£8.32
Under 2's EYE	£11.34
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	£1.15
Deprivation (EYPP eligibility)	£0.10

Disability Access Fund (DAF)	£975.00
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Q.2 Payment of EYE

Termly is preferred with **86%** of the vote



Outcome and
Report NELC EYE Fur

Sufficiency

Across the borough, there remains to be sufficient places, but they are not all in the right place or age range.

Places per eligible child (average) based on current part time (15hour) places

	2025-26 2026-27		2027-28			
	Actual PTE	PTE Required	Actual PTE	PTE Required	Actual PTE	PTE Required
All	1.60	0	1.67	0	1.71	0
3 & 4 year olds	1.75	0	1.83	0	1.91	0
2 Year olds	1.64	0	1.71	0	1.73	0
Under 2's	1.22	0	1.25	0	1.25	0

There is a potential need for additional PTE places in Croft Baker, Haverstoe, Heneage, Humberston & New Waltham, Scartho, Wolds and Yarborough wards. A total of approximately 202 PTE places could be required to meet future demand. Almost all the places are needed for under three's.

The supply, demand and take up of places is assessed termly and the team continue to work with providers to determine capacity and support the increase places were needed.

There remains no evidence of unmet demand in any age range, within the borough.

The team is held an Early Years, Childcare and Wraparound market place event in January. The event provided information, advice and support to local providers and stakeholders as to the sufficiency of places locally. The Sufficiency officer has also met with several interested parties who are considering developing additional places within the borough.

Take up of Early years Entitlements

Offer	Take up Summer 26	Take up Spring 26	Take up Autumn 25
3 & 4 year Universal offer		93%	95%
3 & 4 year extended		48%	52%
Early Learning for 2's		24%	23%
2 year expanded		43%	43%
Under 2's expanded		43%	43%

Take up in Academic Year 2024-25

Offer	Take up Summer 25	Take up Spring 25	Take up Autumn 24
3 & 4 year Universal offer	94%	95%	100%
3 & 4 year extended	50%	47%	46%
2 year disadvantage	25%	25%	31%
2 year expanded	40%	38%	37%
Under 2's expanded	39%	37%	33%

Average Take up Year on Year

	3 & 4 year Universal	3 & 4 year extended	2 year disadvantage	2 year expanded	Under 2's expanded
2024-25	96%	49%	27%	38%	36%
2023-24	97%	47%	40%	31%	
2022-23	96%	47%	38%		
2021-22	97%	42%	36%		
2020-21	94%	37%	33%		

Note: Some 2 year olds could be eligible for both the disadvantaged and working offers. However, they can only access either offer not both.