

Essex County Council Coronavirus

FAQs for Early Years and Childcare Settings – 15th April 2020

- As a childminder what do I need to do if I wish to register to work for up to 50% of my time on non-domestic premises?

Childminders and childcarers' looking after the children of key workers on domestic premises can apply to work from non-domestic premises for up to 50% of their time. If you would like to do this, you need to email your [application form](#) to regulatoryteam@ofsted.gov.uk. Ofsted will review the details and contact you as quickly as possible to discuss your request.

- Will the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Fund (DAF) be paid in the summer term for eligible children?

*EYPP and DAF will continue to be paid in the Summer term for eligible children. It is expected that Providers will give careful consideration to how this can be spent to benefit the children it is intended for, whether or not your setting is open and whether or not these children are currently attending. You may decide to spend this funding when the child begins attending again. Alternatively, **if there is a way to do this that is safe and within the current guidelines**, you could provide resources or supplies to support the child's wellbeing and learning at home. This solution would especially benefit children transitioning to school in September who, due to possible government direction, may not return to the setting in the summer term. Another option could be to use EYPP to send a food delivery, veg box or a supermarket voucher if appropriate to the family. In all cases, any decision would need to be guided by your knowledge of a family's situation and the child's home learning environment and made in partnership with parents. For the most vulnerable children, it would be appropriate to liaise with other professionals involved with the family about how this could be spent for maximum benefit at this time.*

If you have any queries on this, please email andree.race@essex.gov.uk who will be happy to provide additional support.

- Will the SEN Premium funding be paid in the summer 2020 term for eligible children?

The same process as has been previously shared for the early years Inclusion funding will be followed for the SEN Premium for the Summer 2020 term with

- Is there any financial support for parents identified as Key Workers and vulnerable children who are required to access an Early Years provision outside of their usual pattern of attendance?

This will need to be looked at on a case by case basis, but if a Key Worker due to the Covid-19 virus needs to access childcare outside of their usual pattern of attendance and is able to confirm that if they were to pay, this would bring about

financial hardship for the family due to the increased charges. (e.g. where holiday cover would usually be met by family members who are no longer able to offer care due to the UK lockdown / Shielded individuals / Social Distancing / Isolation or where key workers have been asked to cancel annual leave requests to meet staffing shortfalls) please email Free.EntitlementFundingQueries@essex.gov.uk to request whether any financial support can be offered to a key worker

- Will parents still be notified of the outcome of school admission place application on 16 April 2020 as planned?

Yes. Parents can still expect to receive correspondence detailing the outcome of their child's school place application on the 16 April 2020.

- When and how do I submit Summer 2020 term actual headcount?

The Summer 2020 term headcount task goes live on the portal on the 5 May 2020 and closes 13 May 2020; actual headcount day is 7 May 2020.

If a provider is closed due to the COVID-19 they must submit headcount data in line with the interim data submitted, there should not be any amendments made. Each provider should, as far is practically possible, make provision to fulfil their contractual agreement and submit headcount data.

However, if a provider is closed and unable to submit headcount data, ECC will use the interim headcount data to calculate the Actual Headcount FEEE payment.

If a provider is open, they must submit headcount data in line with the interim data submitted. If the number of hours of children's attendance and / or children goes over what has been claimed due to additional Key Worker's children attending, please add the child's details up to the maximum number of hours a child would be entitled to in the Summer 2020 term, as set out below:

- 13 weeks at 15 hours per week universal FEEE and 15 hours extended entitlement for eligible parents

or

- 195 hours for universal FEEE and 195 hours for extended entitlement for eligible parents

- Can I ask parents that are Key Workers new to the setting to pay registration fees and for any additional consumables?

The expectation is that registration fees would not apply for new Key Workers. Settings may charge for consumables in line with [national entitlements guidance](#). As per existing guidance, they should consider the impact of charges on disadvantaged families.

- Can I ask that the keyworker/ vulnerable child must remain in my setting after Covid-19 has ended for them to access a place?

This is an emergency and temporary childcare situation and Essex County Council would not expect providers to insist the child should remain in their care after Covid-19 for them to be able to access a place.

- Is there any update on whether settings can access the Free Early Education Entitlement funding and furlough their staff?

We are still waiting for clarification and updated guidance as to whether providers can furlough staff and claim FEEE funding. However, this is being discussed by local authorities and sector membership organisations at a national level with the Secretary of State. ECC will update as soon there is an outcome to this query.

In the meantime, ECC will continue to follow the original DfE guidance issued and will continue to make the FEEE funding payments for the Summer 2020 term. As mentioned previously, if necessary ECC will work with any setting that needs to pay the FEEE funding back if that is the final outcome from the DfE and HMRC and the best way forward for individual settings

- If a setting is closed and staff are furloughed, can staff still provide activities and ideas to families to support parents with their child's learning and development?

We are still seeking clarification on this with the DfE and HMRC. Where practical, a solution to this issue could be for each setting to retain at least one member of staff to remain working and not be furloughed to cover these activities. Another option is to consider if it is possible for these activities to be carried out under a voluntary capacity

- Do schools, colleges and childcare settings need personal protective equipment (PPE)?

The scientific advice indicates that educational staff do not require personal protective equipment. This is needed by medical and care professionals providing specific close contact care, or procedures that create airborne risk, such as suctioning and physiotherapy, for anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19), and is displaying symptoms.

If you are not providing this care to someone with the virus, and displaying symptoms, PPE is not needed. Asymptomatic people (people with the virus but not displaying symptoms) have a reduced viral load and so risk of transmission is considerably reduced. More information can be found at the following link:-
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-social-distancing-in-education-and-childcare-settings>