



Free Early Education for 3 and 4 year old children

From September 2017, the Government have extended the Free Early Education to 30 hours but the provider is entitled to offer any number of hours between 15 hours (the present level) and 30 hours. Beechwood School has opted to continue to provide only 15 hours a week under the scheme. The additional 15 hours can be claimed at another setting which offer the full 30 hours free early education.

Beechwood Sacred Heart School offers three different patterns of delivery for the Free Early Education as follows:

- ☐ A morning session in the Pre-Prep lasts from 8.30am to 1pm. 3 hours free early education will be given for each morning attended and the additional time will be paid for by parents. Children will have lunch and be collected at 1.00pm when the Pre-Prep morning ends.
- ☐ A full day session in the Pre-Prep lasts from 8.30-3.30. 6 hours free early education will be given during this time and the additional time will be paid for by parents. Children should be collected at 3.30 or may stay on for After School Care, which will be charged for separately.
- ☐ If parents only want to access their free early education, sessions are available each morning from 8.30-11.30, 3 hours each morning. Parents must collect their child promptly at 11.30. If some morning sessions in the Pre-Prep are already full, we may not be able to offer the full 15 hour entitlement, or if all mornings are full they may have to join a waiting list until space becomes available.

Information regarding a child's sessions at the Pre-Prep have to be sent to Kent County Council at the beginning of each term and parents must ensure that they have returned the Parental Declaration form to the Accounts Office so that the free early education claim can be made.

It should be noted that once the claim has been sent to KCC, usually within 4 weeks of the start of term, it cannot be changed until the following term; so if a child increases their hours during the term or starts at half term no change in entitlement will be given until the following term.

If you have any queries on this please do not hesitate to contact our school office on 01892 532747.