

St. Michael's C of E Primary School

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HEADTEACHER:

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Dear Parents,

Information concerning the 30 hours free childcare for those eligible is coming in daily. I just wanted to keep you up to date with what you may find interesting or need to act upon.

Eligibility

Parents of three and four year olds will need to meet certain criteria in order to be eligible for 30 hours free childcare. Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/earlyyears

What happens if a parent loses eligibility?

Parents will have a 'grace period' - this means children will be able to continue to access childcare for a short period. Once the 'grace period' has ended, children will no longer get their additional hours but would still be entitled to the free 15 hours entitlement.

Date parent receives ineligible decision on reconfirmation:	Grace period end date:
1 Jan - 10 Feb	31 st March
11 Feb - 31 March	31 st August
1 April - 26 May	31 st August
27 May - 31 August	31 st December
1 September - 21 October	31 st December
22 October - 31 December	31 st March

Verifying eligibility

Parents are now able to check their eligibility on the Childcare Choices website. If eligible, you will receive an 11-digit code that you need to bring to the school office. Parents will also need to provide the national insurance number of the person who registered online and the child's date of birth. We need these codes as soon as possible so that we can validate your code with the LA before we can formally offer you a place. Parents will need to complete and sign a new parental declaration form to allow checks to be carried out. Please find a copy of the form attached. The form is also available from the school office or our website.

We will then contact you to confirm your eligibility and secure your 30 hours place.



Childcare choices website

The launch of the Childcare Choices website means that parents are now able to get support online with various aspects of childcare. The site provides parents with a single point of information for all government funded childcare offers, including the 30 Hours Free Childcare and Tax Free Childcare. The Tax-Free Childcare scheme will be gradually rolled out over 2017 helping to cut childcare costs for working families in the UK. The website includes a childcare calculator for parents to compare all the government's childcare offers and check what will work best for their families.

I hope this helps. As we find out more we will let you know.

Mrs L Vollans
Head Teacher

