

What is the Minimum Funding Entitlement?

The Minimum Funding Entitlement (previously known as the Nursery Education Grant) provides free early education for children aged three and four.

Early years providers must provide a minimum of 33 weeks of nursery education per year, and have to register with the Royal Borough to be part of the Minimum Funding Entitlement (MFE) scheme. Providers participating in the scheme include:

- private nursery schools
- private or voluntary pre-schools or playgroups
- private or voluntary day nurseries
- nursery units of independent schools.

Children who go to local authority primary or nursery schools are funded automatically by the local education authority.

How are the places funded?

MFE funding is available for a maximum of fifteen hours per week and up to 38 weeks per year. This totals a maximum of 570 hours which can be spread over a longer period if a provider is open for 38 or more weeks a year, such as a day nursery. MFE providers claim the funding through the Royal Borough.

The 15 hours entitlement is flexible and can be accessed over a minimum of three days per week (this can be stretched to 2 days with providers who operate for 45 weeks or more per year) but this will be dependent on whether a provider can accommodate this. As a minimum, all providers must offer a three hour session, five days a week.

The 15-hours entitlement is free at the point of delivery. Parents will be expected to pay for any additional services or additional hours of childcare over and above the free entitlement.

Who can get the MFE?

All children attending a MFE registered provider in Kensington and Chelsea are eligible for funding in the term after they become three, irrespective of where they live.

The table below shows when a child becomes eligible:

A child born between	... is eligible for MFE...
1 April and 31 August	From the start of the autumn term (September to December) following their third birthday until statutory school age.
1 September and 31 December	From the start of the spring term (January to March) following their third birthday until statutory school age.
1 January and 31 March	From the start of the summer term (April to August) following their third birthday until statutory school age.

How do I apply?

Your MFE registered provider will need to see a copy of your child's birth certificate and will ask you to sign a declaration form. They will then claim the MFE from the local authority on your behalf. You cannot apply individually.

Do I need to register by a certain date to receive the grant?

Yes. Each term we set a 'headcount date' and children not registered with a MFE provider by that date will not be able to claim the grant until the following term (except under exceptional circumstances).

Please ask your MFE registered provider for details of each termly headcount day.

Where can I get more information?

To find out more about the MFE and for a list of settings which can claim the funding, please call:

Family Information Service

Tel: 020 7361 3302,

9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. (Answering machine outside office hours.)

You can also view a list of nurseries taking part in the MFE scheme on the Royal Borough's website, www.rbkc.gov.uk/fis.

This document can be made available in other languages and formats (such as large print and Braille) on request. We can also provide additional copies. Please contact as below.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Family Information Service

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London W11 3ES

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Email: fis@rbkc.gov.uk

Web: www.rbkc.gov.uk/fis