



Northbourne Park

Squirrels Nursery

**Free early education for 3-/ 4-year-olds
and 2-year-olds**

Free early education for 3/ 4-year-olds and 2-year-olds

Who is eligible?

All 3- & 4-year-olds attending Northbourne Park School's Squirrels Nursery are entitled to 15 hours of free early education per week, starting from the term after their third birthday. Those eligible can claim an additional 15 hours or 30 hours in total. Working parents can claim funding for 2-year-olds and those receiving certain benefits may be entitled to 15 hours "Free for Two". Please check your eligibility here:

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>.

How many weeks a year can I claim?

At Squirrels Nursery you can claim a total of 38 weeks a year for the academic year 2026/2027.

We offer parents the flexibility to use their free early years education hours either

- term time only (up to 30 hours funded hours per week), or
- stretched over 48 weeks (up to 24 funded hours per week)

What are the free early education sessions?

Term time only provision

15 hours (Universal or Free for Two)

- 3 funded daily hours over 5 days
- 10.00am – 1.00pm fully funded

30 hours (Working persons entitlement)

- 6 funded daily hours over 5 days
- 10.00am – 4.00pm fully funded

Stretched 48-week provision

15 hours (Universal or Free for Two)

- 3 funded daily hours over 4 days
- 10.00am – 1.00pm fully funded

30 hours (Working persons entitlement)

- 6 funded daily hours over 4 days
- 10.00am – 4.00pm fully funded

Snacks and drinks are included for all children. **Any additional sessions are charged according to the school fee schedule below.** Your invoice will clearly show your child's free early education hours alongside fees for any additional hours.

Extra charges

Cooked lunch (served at midday)	£2.75
Tea (served at 5.00pm)	£1.75
Fees per session	
8.00am – 8.30am* (wraparound care)	£8.00 (includes breakfast)
8.30am - 10.00am*	£13.95
8.30am - 1.00pm	£41.85
8.30am – 4.00pm	£69.75
1.00pm – 4.00pm	£27.90
4.00pm – 6.00 pm* (wraparound care)	£9.30 per hour

*cannot be booked in isolation

Working example

A child will attend Squirrels Nursery **for a full day, from 8.30am to 4.00pm**. The child will attend the nursery in **term-time only**.

- Using the 30-hour model, the child has 6 funded daily hours, 5 days a week. 10.00 am – 4.00 pm is fully funded every day. The family will pay extra charges for the unfunded 8.30 am – 10.00 am session, and for the cooked lunch.
- Using the 15-hour model, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm is fully funded (3 funded daily hours, 5 days a week). They will pay extra charges for the unfunded 8.30 am – 10.00 am session, the unfunded 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm session, and for the cooked lunch.

Daily extra charges: Monday – Friday

Term-time 30-hour model		Term-time 15-hour model	
8.30am – 10.00am	£13.95	8.30am – 10.00am	£13.95
10.00am - 4.00 pm	Fully funded	10.00am - 1.00pm	Fully funded
Cooked lunch	£2.75	1.00pm – 4.00pm	£27.90
		Cooked lunch	£2.75
Total daily extra charge	£ 16.70	Total daily extra charge	£ 44.60

If the family wished to **stretch their funding over 48 weeks**, the daily extra charges would be the same; however, funding would cover only 4 days a week. If 5 days a week is required, the 5th day will be charged at the full, unfunded rate of £ 69.75, plus the lunch charge.

Can I claim a totally free place?

Yes. A totally free place covers the funded sessions only (10.00 am to 1.00 pm or 10.00 am to 4.00 pm). Totally free places are subject to availability.

Will I need to pay a deposit or administration fee?

This depends on how your child attends. If you are claiming a totally free place, no deposit or administration fee is required.

If your child's place includes any additional charges, such as unfunded sessions, cooked lunch or school trips, a refundable deposit and a non-refundable administration fee will be required to secure the place.

How do I claim for free hours?

You will be asked to sign a parental declaration form to make a free early education claim.

If you are claiming the extended entitlement (additional funded hours), you will also need to obtain a Department for Education Reference Number (DERN) via the government's Best Start for Life portal: beststartinlife.gov.uk.

Can I claim at more than one setting?

Yes, but no more than two settings in a single day

Can I use the government's Tax-Free Childcare in conjunction with funded hours?

Yes, eligible families can pay for extra charges through a Tax-Free Childcare account. To find out more and apply, visit <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>.

How can I find out more?

For further information please contact:

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Pre-Prep Administrator
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Kent Children & Families Information Service
Website: www.kent.gov.uk/cfis
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