

Appendix 4 - Special School, Inclusion Centre, and Alternative Provision Places 2025-26

Special School Place 2025-26		
Special School	Apr 25 to Aug 25	Sept 25 to Mar 26
Mary Rose Academy	188	188
Cliffdale Primary Academy	216	216
Redwood Park Academy	160	160
Solent Academies Trust Total	564	564
The Harbour School	95	95
The Wymering School	66	66
Total Delta Education Trust Places	161	161
Total Special School Places	725	725
Additional places agreed and paid locally		
Mary Rose Academy	0	0
Cliffdale Primary Academy	0	0
Total additional places	0	0
Total Special school places	725	725

Inclusion Centre and Alternative Provision Places 2025-26		
Inclusion Centre	Apr 25 to Aug 25	Sept 25 to Mar 26
Devonshire Infant	10	10
Southsea Infant	8	8
St Edmunds	9	9
Total Maintained Schools	27	27
Victory Primary	23	23
Northern Parade Junior	2	0
Milton Park Primary	16	16
Trafalgar	15	20
Penbridge (Penhale Infant and Newbridge Junior)	24	24
The Portsmouth Academy	24	32
Arundel Court Primary	24	24
Total Academies	128	139
New Inclusion Centres opening September 2025		16
Total Inclusion Centre Places	155	182
Alternative Provision		
The Harbour School	105	105
Flying Bull Primary Academy	24	28
Flying Bull Primary Academy (inc. 4 Emergency Places) ¹	8	4
Total Alternative Provision Places	137	137

¹ Paid locally by the Authority.

Appendix 5: Early Years Provider Consultation 2025-26

Early Years Funding 2025-26 Consultation

1. Background

- 1.1. In previous years the Department for Education (DfE) has not released Early Years funding information until mid-December, making it difficult for Portsmouth to engage with Early Years providers over the holiday period to meet statutory deadlines.
- 1.2. This year Portsmouth is consulting with providers on the proposals for the 2025-26 funding formula before the announcement of the hourly rates payable to local authorities from the DfE. This will enable providers to have more time to consider the proposals and submit their views. The responses will then inform the proposals taken to Schools Forum and Cabinet Member for endorsement and approval in early 2025.
- 1.3. It should be noted that as the 2025-26 hourly rates have not yet been published by the DfE this consultation is looking at the percentage split of the funded hourly rate across the formula elements. The final formula will be subject to change dependant on the outcome of the consultation.

2. Early Years funding 2025-26

- 2.1. On the 24 October the DfE informed local authorities of two changes to the local rules which they expect to apply from April 2025.
 - The pass-through rate to providers will increase from 95% to 96%
 - That all local authorities are required to inform their providers of the 2025-26 rates no later than 28 February 2025. Portsmouth Schools Forum and Cabinet Member meetings have been timed to ensure this deadline is met.
- 2.2. It is assumed that there will be no changes to the current entitlements:
 - universal 15 hours entitlement for all three- and four-year-olds
 - additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of three- and four-year-olds
 - 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds.
 - 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of two-year-old children, moving to 30 hours from September 2025.
 - 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children from nine months to two years old, moving to 30 hours from September 2025.

3. Pupils with Special Educational Need and Disabilities

- 3.1. Early years providers have seen increasing numbers of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) that require additional support to

meet their needs. The authority has been considering the range of support that is being offered and how funding can be focused where it is needed and reflects the different levels of need.

- 3.2. The support for pupils with SEND is currently funded from two sources:
 - 3.2.1. **Early Years Block:** Special Education Needs and Disabilities Inclusion Fund (SENDIF Emerging). Provides a termly lump sum for two terms to support pupils on low and emerging levels of need.
 - 3.2.2. **High Needs Block:** Special Education Needs and Disabilities Inclusion Fund Plus (SENDIF+) Provides an additional hourly rate for pupils who require more specialist support.
- 3.3. The authority is considering how it can better support pupils with the highest levels of need from the High Needs Block and will provide further information in 2025. This consultation focuses on the Early Years Block and Early Years Funding Formula for the financial year April 2025 to March 2026.
- 3.4. The current SENDIF Emerging funding methodology pays providers a lump sum per term for two terms. This means that funding could cease when the pupil may still benefit for the additional support. Whilst the authority has paid funding for additional terms it requires the provider to submit another claim, making the process administratively burdensome for providers.
- 3.5. It is proposed that providers will continue to receive the funding until the child leaves the setting or needs are reassessed. This could be a child no longer needing support due to high levels of progress or the child and setting needing more specialist support from the High Needs Block.
- 3.6. In addition to the extension of the payment period, it is proposed to change the lump sum values to reflect the expectation that more pupils are/will be taking up the 30-hour entitlement in 2025-26. It is hoped that this will give providers more flexibility to manage the support requirements in their settings.
- 3.7. The current Early Years Funding Formula for all age groups provides approximately £126,000² of funding to providers. It is expected that the extension of payments for more than one term and the changes to the lump sum will increase funding to providers to approximately £300,000.
- 3.8. The tables in the sections below show the proposed percentage of the hourly rate that will be transferred to the SENDIF, please note that the percentage is

² This fluctuates in line with the number of hours recorded on the January census

different for each age group as it reflects the 2024/25 hourly rate for each age group that benefit from the funding.

4. Funding to Early Years settings 2025-26

4.1. Three- and four-year-olds, universal and additional hours entitlements.

4.1.1. The Table below shows the percentage split of the hourly funded rate from the DfE for 2024-25 and the proposed split for 2025-26.

Table 1: Three and Four-year-old funding formula			
	2024-25 Percentage split	2025-26 Percentage split	Variation
Basic hourly rate paid to providers	89.7%	90.0%	0.3%
Deprivation average hourly rate	3.3%	3.3%	0.0%
SENDIF Emerging	0.7%	1.5%	0.8%
Growth contingency fund	1.0%	0.8%	-0.2%
Teacher Pay and Pension Grant (see Section 4.2)	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%
Total funding passed to settings	95.1%	96.0%	0.9%
Centrally retained	4.9%	4.0%	-0.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%

Deprivation

4.1.2. Deprivation remains a mandatory supplement for three- and four-year-olds. The Council is proposing to continue to use the current deprivation indices based on pupil IDACI3. It is anticipated that Deprivation rates will remain at the same values as 2024-25, to enable the authority to maximise the amount paid through the basic hourly rate.

Table 2: Deprivation funding 2025-26	
Deprivation Band	Funding per hour £
1	0.45
2	0.34
3	0.22
4	0.11
5	0.00

³ Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index.

4.2. Teachers pay and Teacher Pension Employer Contributions Grants (TPPG)

- 4.2.1. In 2023-24 the DfE changed the methodology for paying the Teachers Pay and Teachers Pension Employer Contributions Grant (TPPG) to those mainstream school providers with a nursery unit. Eligible schools previously received this as a separate grant which is funded on an amount per pupil. In 2023-24 the DfE brought the grant into the Early Years block of the DSG and Portsmouth has been paying this as a supplement to the formula, to those schools that received the grant in 2022-23.
- 4.2.2. In 2024-25, £0.03 of the hourly rate received was retained by the authority to continue to pay the grant on the same basis as 2023-24.
- 4.2.3. For 2025-26 it is proposed to continue to retain £0.03 of the hourly rate received by the authority to pay the grant on the same basis. This will be reviewed on receipt of the funding and the October Schools census information.
- 4.2.4. The ESFA announced in October an Early Years Budget Grant (EYBG) to provide additional funding to cover the increased costs associated with the Teacher's pay award for school-based providers. This covers the period September 2024 to March 2025. It is not known at this stage if funding will continue in 2025-26 or if it will become part of the Formula funding to the authority. This will be reviewed on receipt of the guidance in December 2024.

4.3. Two-year-old, current and new working parents' entitlements 2025-26

- 4.3.1. The Table below shows the percentage split of the hourly funded rate from the DfE for 2024-25 and the proposed split for 2025-26.

	2024-25 Percentage split	2025-26 Percentage split	Variation
Basic hourly rate paid to providers	94.6%	94.9%	0.3%
SENDIF Emerging	0.4%	1.0%	0.6%
Growth contingency fund	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Total funding passed to settings	95.0%	96.0%	1.0%
Central retained funding	5.0%	4.0%	-1.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%

4.4. Under 2s entitlements 2025-26

4.4.1. The Table below shows the percentage split of the hourly funded rate from the DfE for 2024-25 and the proposed split for 2025-26.

	2024-25 Percentage split	2025-26 Percentage split	Variation
Basic hourly rate paid to providers	94.7%	95.0%	0.3%
SENDIF Emerging	0.3%	0.8%	0.5%
Growth contingency fund	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Total funding passed to settings	95.0%	96.0%	1.0%
Central retained funding	5.0%	4.0%	-1.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%

5. Growth contingency

- 5.1. The DfE have previously confirmed that local authorities can hold contingency funds for in-year growth above the funded pupil numbers. This will be counted within the 96% pass-through rate because the money is eventually shared with providers.
- 5.2. For the financial year 2025-26 Portsmouth City Council will initially be funded on the January 2024 hours. There is a risk that as the year progresses that the actual hours will exceed the funding received by the authority.
- 5.3. For 2024-25 the authority was funded for two-year-old and the under 2s of working parents through a termly head count which reduced the need for a growth contingency. It is not known at this stage if the DfE will hold autumn term head count to cover any fluctuation in pupil hours due to the expansion of the entitlement of pupils of working parents to 30 hours.
- 5.4. Analysis of the use of the contingency over the last three years has shown that the three- and four-year-old contingency has been used to offset overspends in two-year-olds. Rather than increase the level of Growth Contingency in 2025-26 it is proposed to retain the same overall amount of funding but spread the contributions across all age groups. The age group funding formulas set out in the tables above show the percentage change. The position on the Growth Contingency will be reviewed each year to consider any changes in methodology and actual attendance compared to the funding received.

6. Centrally retained

- 6.1. The authority can retain up to 4% of the Early Years Block funding to support the early years functions. Whilst it is a reduction in the retention percentage the increase in entitlements has enabled the authority to retain a level of funding that enables the support to providers continue. It is proposed that in 2025-26, the 96% pass-through requirement will apply separately to the entitlements for:
- nine months old children up to two-year-olds of working parents
 - two-year-old children of working parents
 - two-year-old children from disadvantaged families
 - three- and four-year-olds (universal and additional hours).
- 6.2. The retention of the 4% will enable the authority, through the early years team, to continue to support providers with quality assurance, business support, training, advice, signposting parents to find childcare places, inclusion outreach, funding issues, eligibility checks and synergy trouble shooting during open tasks. Additional support will be required to administer the new entitlements both in terms of increasing sufficiency and administering the funding to providers.
- 6.3. Therefore, it is proposed that the 4% retention will be applied to all funding formulas as set out in tables 1, 3 and 4.

7. Next steps

- 7.1. The feedback provided from this consultation will inform the report to Schools Forum and Cabinet Member early in 2025 to set the hourly rates for two-year-olds and under, and three- and four-year-olds for 2025-26.
- 7.2. When responding to the consultation please be aware that your response may be shared in the public domain, e.g., via a Freedom of Information request, therefore please don't share information that may be commercially sensitive, or you would not want shared more widely.
- 7.3. To respond to the consultation, please complete the attached document and return to EYfunding@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
- 7.4. Responses should be returned no later than midnight **Friday 20 December 2024**.

Feedback from the 2025-26 Early Years Funding formula

Question	Total Yes	Total No	Total N/A
<p>1. Do you agree with the proposed 2025-26 funding formula for three and four year olds, as set out in Table 1?</p>	17	4	1
<p>If not, what would you change?</p>			
<p>SENDIF+ funding hourly rate doesn't cover a member of staffs hourly rate even at minimum wage which means when we appoint a one to one support for these children, we have to pay the top up which we don't agree with, it means we are out of pocket from the word go. NEG funding isn't enough, preschools like us rely on paying parents otherwise we would never be sustainable. With all the new funding coming out we will have a lot more funded children and a lot less paying children. It isn't possible to cover costs across the board!</p>			
<p>Increase funds</p>			
<p>I note that PCC are still retaining the maximum they are allowed to by the DfE – whilst I understand you have some overheads to maintain, you are now retaining 4% of a much bigger pot, which will increase your centrally retained budget significantly – this money is intended for the front line and delivery of early years care.</p> <p>With the disastrous budget and the huge increased costs to nurseries from the increase in NLW and employer's NI contributions, this is going to have a huge financial hit on nurseries already struggling to deliver the underfunded government 'free' hours. NI is increasing from 13.8% to 15% and the threshold is reducing from £9,100 per staff member to £5,000. Furthermore, NLW is increasing from between 6.7% to 18%, whereas the DfE are proposing an increase of around 4% on the funding rates – where do they expect us to find the extra money from, other than increasing the cost of childcare for parents – something we know the Government are not in favour of. There has been no consideration given to how nurseries are going to manage these increased costs, with no ability to reduce staffing, unless we reduce child numbers and no concessions on business rates. I would have hoped, therefore, that PCC would have considered passing more than the minimum 96% on to providers and I will raise this with our rep to raise at the schools forum. I also do not agree with an additional grant going to maintained nursery schools for 'Teachers' pay and pensions – all providers offer the same level of care and high quality staffing and would therefore appreciate an additional grant in order to increase our staff salaries and pension contributions. The difference between the maintained nursery and private sector pay, greatly impacts on recruitment and retention within the sector.</p>			

Due to the amount of funded children, we have and with increases with national insurance and national minimum wage the funding rates which the department of education set are not enough, without knowing exactly what we will be getting in April 2025 I cannot agree with Portsmouth City Council centrally retaining 4%.

I would agree if we were allowed to charge parents the difference per hour for providing the childcare for example our funding rate is £5.50 per hour based on the 22 hours as we stretch the funding we charge £8.40per hour for a school day, we are all ready losing £2.90per hour, per child on a 7.5 hour day that is £21.75 per child per day based on 30 children that is £652.00 per day my setting is losing due to the funding.

The funding rates need to be higher for this age group.

Responding to the above email I am happy with the amounts.

With the extra £100+ million allocated in the DSG this year to schools I'd like to see this fed down to help nurseries, we are not sheltered from the increase in NI contributions or business rates. We pay our own pension contributions and our costs have gone up continuously for years. Teachers have been given a pay rise and this is something I would love to be able to do for our staff who already feel undervalued. To do this we need to be able to access every penny we can and be treated fairly. If money and staff training is available to nursery aged children, then this helps them on their start in education which in turn helps every year in school afterwards. We need a proactive approach not a reactive one by over financing the wrong end of their education.

Question	Total Yes	Total No	Total N/A
2. Do you agree with the proposed 2025-26 funding formula for two year olds, as set out in Table 3?	17	4	1

If not, what would you change?

SENDIF+ funding hourly rate doesn't cover a member of staffs hourly rate even at minimum wage which means when we appoint a one to one support for these children, we have to pay the top up which we don't agree with, it means we are out of pocket from the word go. NEG funding isn't enough, preschools like us rely on paying parents otherwise we would never be sustainable. With all the new funding coming out we will have a lot more funded children and a lot less paying children. It isn't possible to cover costs across the board!

Increase funds

I note that PCC are still retaining the maximum they are allowed to by the DfE – whilst I understand you have some overheads to maintain, you are now retaining 4% of a much bigger pot, which will increase your centrally retained budget significantly – this money is intended for the front line and delivery of early years care.

With the disastrous budget and the huge increased costs to nurseries from the increase in NLW and employer's NI contributions, this is going to have a huge financial hit on nurseries already struggling to deliver the underfunded government

'free' hours. NI is increasing from 13.8% to 15% and the threshold is reducing from £9,100 per staff member to £5,000. Furthermore, NLW is increasing from between 6.7% to 18%, whereas the DfE are proposing an increase of around 4% on the funding rates – where do they expect us to find the extra money from, other than increasing the cost of childcare for parents – something we know the Government are not in favour of. There has been no consideration given to how nurseries are going to manage these increased costs, with no ability to reduce staffing, unless we reduce child numbers and no concessions on business rates. I would have hoped, therefore, that PCC would have considered passing more than the minimum 96% on to providers and I will raise this with our rep to raise at the schools forum. I also do not agree with an additional grant going to maintained nursery schools for 'Teachers' pay and pensions – all providers offer the same level of care and high quality staffing and would therefore appreciate an additional grant in order to increase our staff salaries and pension contributions. The difference between the maintained nursery and private sector pay, greatly impacts on recruitment and retention within the sector.

Although the rate is £8.49 2024-2025 we don't yet know what next year's rate is and like what I have written above we have huge increases with our outgoings, we are not allowed to charge parents additional fees to top up what we lose per hour on a child's place which if we could then I may agree to the 4% centrally retaining

Responding to the above email I am happy with the amounts.

With the extra £100+ million allocated in the DSG this year to schools I'd like to see this fed down to help nurseries, we are not sheltered from the increase in NI contributions or business rates. We pay our own pension contributions and our costs have gone up continuously for years. Teachers have been given a pay rise and this is something I would love to be able to do for our staff who already feel undervalued. To do this we need to be able to access every penny we can and be treated fairly. If money and staff training is available to nursery aged children, then this helps them on their start in education which in turn helps every year in school afterwards. We need a proactive approach not a reactive one by over financing the wrong end of their education.

Question	Total Yes	Total No	Total N/A
3. Do you agree with the proposed 2025-26 funding formula for under 2's as set out in Table 4	17	3	2

If not, what would you change?

N/A we take children from as soon as they turn 2 years old.

Increase funds

I note that PCC are still retaining the maximum they are allowed to by the DfE – whilst I understand you have some overheads to maintain, you are now retaining 4% of a much bigger pot, which will increase your centrally retained budget significantly – this money is intended for the front line and delivery of early years care.

With the disastrous budget and the huge increased costs to nurseries from the increase in NLW and employer's NI contributions, this is going to have a huge financial hit on nurseries already struggling to deliver the underfunded government 'free' hours. NI is increasing from 13.8% to 15% and the threshold is reducing from £9,100 per staff member to £5,000. Furthermore, NLW is increasing from

between 6.7% to 18%, whereas the DfE are proposing an increase of around 4% on the funding rates – where do they expect us to find the extra money from, other than increasing the cost of childcare for parents – something we know the Government are not in favour of. There has been no consideration given to how nurseries are going to manage these increased costs, with no ability to reduce staffing, unless we reduce child numbers and no concessions on business rates. I would have hoped, therefore, that PCC would have considered passing more than the minimum 96% on to providers and I will raise this with our rep to raise at the schools forum. I also do not agree with an additional grant going to maintained nursery schools for ‘Teachers’ pay and pensions – all providers offer the same level of care and high quality staffing and would therefore appreciate an additional grant in order to increase our staff salaries and pension contributions. The difference between the maintained nursery and private sector pay, greatly impacts on recruitment and retention within the sector.

Although the rate is £11.59 2024-2025 we don't yet know what next year's rate is and like what I have written above we have huge increases with our outgoings, we are not allowed to charge parents additional fees to top up what we lose per hour on a child's place which if we could then I may agree to the 4% centrally retaining

Responding to the above email I am happy with the amounts.

With the extra £100+ million allocated in the DSG this year to schools I'd like to see this fed down to help nurseries, we are not sheltered from the increase in NI contributions or business rates. We pay our own pension contributions and our costs have gone up continuously for years. Teachers have been given a pay rise and this is something I would love to be able to do for our staff who already feel undervalued. To do this we need to be able to access every penny we can and be treated fairly. If money and staff training is available to nursery aged children, then this helps them on their start in education which in turn helps every year in school afterwards. We need a proactive approach not a reactive one by over financing the wrong end of their education.