

EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE (EEC) FUNDING & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

The School participates in the Early Education and Childcare (EEC) funding scheme and works with the Local Authority in its administration.

EEC is applicable to all pupils in Fledglings, Cygnets and Reception, for all or part of the School year depending on age.

Reduction in the School's fees by way of the funding is subject to the scheme's rules and, indeed, continuation nationally of this funding for 3 and 4 year olds. This means that at any time funding may not be available.

Each 'funding year' runs from April to March and is not concurrent with the School year. Changes to the scheme may therefore be implemented, in effect, part way through the School year.

The outline of the funding is as follows:

- (1) The free entitlement is currently 15 hours per week.
- (2) As the number of weeks in each term varies, the amount of grant varies each term, so that the fees payable each term will vary.
- (3) The School operates on a 35 week year. Funding is available for 38 weeks and parents can access their remaining entitlement, should they so wish, with other providers.

Please note that the School does not offer the free entitlement on a stand alone basis. Bury Grammar Schools Infants is a fee paying school and the EEC scheme reduces the fee payable on a termly basis. Parents who only wish to access free entitlement cannot therefore send pupils to Bury Grammar Schools Infants but will be able to access that free entitlement through other providers in the borough.

Copies of Bury Council's guide to the free early education entitlement, published in March 2010, are available from Infants reception.

Payment of fees using childcare vouchers

Bury Grammar Schools accept childcare vouchers for the following:

- Fledglings & Cygnets: Tuition fees including Breakfast & After School Club and Holiday Club charges
- Reception onwards: Breakfast & After School Club and Holiday Club charges

from the following providers:

- 1) Edenred Childcare Vouchers
- 2) Sodexo Motivation Solutions
- 3) Computershare Voucher Services
- 4) Care-4
- 5) Fideliti Childcare Vouchers.

Bury Grammar Schools are willing to consider registering with other providers

Any payment of fees by such vouchers is subject to the provisions of the parent contract, in that fees must still be paid in accordance with the parent contract by the due date, i.e. 21 days after the start of term, or by monthly direct debit payment.

If parents pay fees in the normal way and use childcare vouchers subsequently (up to the maximum amount of fees) then any fee payment can be carried forward against future fees.

Vouchers will only be accepted in advance of charges for After School Club and Breakfast Club where charges will meet or exceed the value of vouchers. Credit balances in respect of vouchers will not be carried forward into another academic year.

The Schools are not in a position to extend credit beyond the normal payment dates in anticipation of childcare vouchers to be received.

Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Bursar's office in advance of the commencement of term.

J Stevens
Bursar

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