



## **30 hour funded policy**

### **Policy statement**

There is no limit on the number of children for whom Aspley Guise Pre-School ("AGPS") accepts 15 hour funding. This is because we are a community pre-school, run as a non-profit enterprise, and although each funded child results in a financial loss versus a fully privately funded child, we believe that providing this basic 15-hour offer for all children equally is a significant way that we can support the local community.

AGPS will, however, limit the number of 30 hour funded places available to four children in total, irrespective of child age, with this limit set at the discretion of the manager and the committee. We have decided to limit the number of available places because the funding per hour provided by the government is lower than our cost of care, resulting in an annual loss to the pre-school for a funded child compared to a privately funded one. As a community based non-profit organisation we seek to assist the community by providing unlimited 15 hour places and some 30 hour funding places, but we cannot offer the latter on an unlimited basis because of the adverse financial impact this would have on the pre-school's finances, and hence its ability to run as a viable (albeit non-profit) business.

Places will be offered on a 'first come, first serve' basis as the Committee believes this is the fairest way of allocating places. If no funded spaces are available when an application is made, a waiting list will be created. Applications to be on the waiting list can be made one term in advance of the expected start of the funding being received with children currently on role having a higher priority.

\* If, for example, a child is due to turn three on 10th October, the child would be eligible to receive 30 hour funding (assuming the application was made in time) in the following January, and could therefore be placed on the waiting list. If the child was due to turn three on 10th January, however, then they could not be placed on the waiting list in October for the Summer term (i.e. two terms hence). Once the Spring term had begun in January, the child could then be placed on the waiting list for the Summer term.

If multiple applications for the waiting list are received on the same day (e.g. the first day of a term) then the order shall be determined by the date of first enquiry about the funding place.

Eligibility for receipt of 30 hours funding is no guarantee that a 30 hour place is available. In addition, it is not necessary for parents to take up the full 30 hours to receive funding. If a parent is using part of their 30 hours funding and then wants to increase their child's sessions to include the full 30 hours, AGPS will facilitate this where possible in line with sessions available on our waiting list, but it must be recognised that the pre-school may not have these sessions available.

Persistent non-attendance may result in your 30 hour place being offered to another child on the waiting list.

Because we are a community non-profit organisation, any parent or carer who believes they have special circumstances (for example financial or family issues) may appeal to the Committee to waive the cap, and the Committee will consider each such appeal received on a case by case basis, without in any way setting a precedent or undermining the current policy cap on 30 hour funded places.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Additional charges

All children, irrespective of receipt of 15 or 30 hour funding, will be expected to pay additional charges for:

- \* Each lunch session attended (if these hours are not covered by their funding)
- \* Any other sessions normally incurring extra cost, predominantly extra-curricular activities (e.g. Tennis, French)
- \* Any late collection fees incurred

#### APPENDIX: Child eligibility for receipt of funding

Please note the following section is for information only and pertains to the eligibility of a child to receive childcare funding from the government, NOT to AGPS's acceptance of such funding. For more information on funding eligibility criteria please see [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

- \* Every child is eligible to receive 15 hours of funding per week from the government, irrespective of any criteria.
- \* In addition, children will be eligible for the 30-hour funded childcare offer if:
  - \* Their parent / carer earns more than the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage or minimum wage per week (for example, £120 per week if you are 25 or older), irrespective of total hours worked AND earns less than £100,000 per year.
  - \* This applies if you are self-employed or on a zero-hours contract and expect to meet the earning criteria on average over the three months after you have applied for the 30-hours.
  - \* If you are not working but you expect to take up paid work within 14 days, you can still apply for 30 hours, as long as you expect to meet the income criteria over the coming three months.
  - \* If you are a single parent and meet the above criteria, you will be eligible for the 30 hours.
  - \* If you live with a partner, you both must meet the above criteria. This still applies if one of you is not the child's parent – for example, if you have remarried or have started living with a new partner. If you are separated/divorced from your child's parent, the eligibility rules will only apply to the parent that the child normally lives with (and their new partner if they are part of the same household).
  - \* A child will be eligible for the 30 hours offer from the term after they turn three, or the term after they receive their eligibility code – whichever is later.
  - \* For example, if a child turns three on 25 March, and the parent applies for the 30-hours on 27 March, the child will be eligible for a place from 1 April (i.e. the start of the spring term). However, if the child turns three on 25 March but the parent doesn't apply for the 30 hours until 5 April, the child won't be eligible for a place until 1 September (i.e. the start of the autumn term).
  - \* Application deadlines to receive funding for any given term are set by the government, not by the pre-school, and unfortunately the pre-school has no ability to waive these deadlines.
  - \* If you no longer meet the eligibility criteria, your child's 30-hour place may continue to be funded for a 'grace period' (usually the remainder of the term). You should discuss this with your provider if and when you lose eligibility. The decision for the funding to continue for a 'grace period' is made by the local authority (Central Beds) and not by the pre-school.