

The Free Early Education Entitlement at St. Margaret's Preparatory School

The national Free Early Education Entitlement scheme (FEEE) which is administered by Essex County Council (ECC) enables a contribution to be made towards fees for all 3 and 4 year old children attending the Nursery at St. Margaret's - or it can be used to access one of a limited number of free places that are available.

Your child becomes legally entitled to receive the FEEE for up to 15 hours of childcare a week, from the term after their third birthday - and up to and including the term that they turn five years old.

For clarity, the relevant dates / terms are set out below:

A child born between Becomes eligible for funding on the . .
1 st April and 31 st August	1 st September following their 3 rd birthday
1 st September and 31 st December	1 st January following their 3 rd birthday
1 st January and 31 st March	1 st April following their 3 rd birthday

At the Nursery at St. Margaret's, in addition to our excellent childcare package, our core offer includes a range of additional activities for which fees are charged. Parents/carers can elect to use the FEEE as a contribution towards these fees.

The children very much enjoy these additional activities which form an important and informative part of your child's time with us – and of your decision to place your child with us. They also prepare the children well for their progress on to Reception and beyond at the school. The activities include the following:

- Lunch is provided for all children who attend morning or full day sessions
- In addition to our daily timetable, a regular timetable of enhanced educational activities – many of which are taught by qualified teachers and/or specialist staff who teach across the whole school – as follows:
 - French
 - Cooking
 - Educational visitors into school (ambulance, farmers, police etc)
 - Drama (our Nursery children all practice for, and take part in, plays and our whole school annual performance at Speech Day in July)
 - PE and Games
 - Music and singing

We have a limited number of places available in which parents / carers can access the Nursery at St. Margaret's free of charge for up to 15 hours each week using only the FEEE as payment. However, parents/carers who wish to access these hours free of charge should note:

- The hours are only available from 12.30 until 15.30 each afternoon.
- The additional activities outlined above are **not** available

Parents/carers must decide before their child starts at the Nursery at St. Margaret's, whether they wish to pay for the additional activities outlined above using the FEEE as a contribution towards their fees, or whether they wish to apply for one of the limited number of free places. The number of free

places available varies and is dependent on pupil numbers, capacity in the Nursery and pupil to staff ratios.

Parents/carers who wish their child to enjoy the additional activities are exercising their choice to pay for these services rather than enrolling their child in a setting which does not provide them. There are many other providers in the area who provide 15 hours of childcare per week entirely free of charge which can be accessed using the FEEE funding only. Information can be obtained from Essex County Council's website at www.essex.gov.uk/earlyyearsandchildcare or by calling 0800 055 6874.

Additional Information for Parents/Carers about the FEEE

- Under the FEEE scheme, you are entitled to request Essex County Council to assist you with funding for up to a maximum of 15 hours of childcare per week over 38 weeks with a registered provider. Please be aware that St. Margaret's does not open for the full 38 weeks and therefore you will not be able to receive your full entitlement here. We are open for **34 weeks** a year.
- If you accept that you are happy with the reduced number of hours, ECC is under no obligation to offer the remainder of your free entitlement at a different provider.
- The amount of free early entitlement currently offered by ECC is £4.01 per hour which will be deducted from your termly invoices if you have elected to pay fees for the additional services outlined above.

In order to claim the FEEE, once you have been offered and have accepted a place at St. Margaret's we will send a Parent / Carer Agreement to you which you will need to complete and return to the Bursar. The Agreement asks you how to set out how you wish to take up the FEEE and it enables St. Margaret's to claim funding from ECC as a contribution towards the cost of the hours which you take up at our setting. If you do not complete and return it, we are unable to claim the funding from ECC.

If your child is joining us part of the way through a term, you may not be entitled to any FEEE for that term. Please ask the Bursar for more information.

Payment of Deposits and Registration Fees

The Nursery at St Margaret's is an integral part of the whole school. When your child joins us in the Nursery at St Margaret's they become part of the whole school family and we assume that it is your intention that they will continue their education with us all the way through to Year 6 – possibly leaving with a scholarship or an 11+ pass to the secondary school of your choice.

A Deposit of £200.00 and a Registration Fee of £75.00 are therefore payable to secure a place in Reception and this is payable when your child joins us in the Nursery.

Sara Moutard

Bursar

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