

PORT·REGIS

EARLY YEARS FUNDED EDUCATION

Funding from Dorset County Council is available for children at Port Regis, potentially, from the term after a child's second birthday until they start Reception class. This amount of funding varies between a pupils age and family circumstances.

Two Year Olds Funding

If eligible, parents can claim up to 30 hours funded childcare for a maximum of 38 weeks (32 weeks at Port Regis).

Three - Four Year Olds Funding

Funding provides up to 15 hours per week for most children aged three plus, until they join Reception class. This is for the 38 term-time weeks of the year (32 weeks at Port Regis).

Funded childcare usually starts the term after a child's 3rd birthday, however, there are cut off dates.

Some families may be eligible for an additional 15 hours per week making a total of 30 hours per week.

To check eligibility for the additional funded 15 hours a week, and to find out how to apply, please [click here](#).



FUNDING AT PORT REGIS

Funding is paid at different rates, according to the age of the child (see next page for current rates). There is an additional charge per hour to cover enhanced activities. The additional costs predominantly cover, but not limited to:

Dance	Swimming	Music
Forest School/Outdoor Studies	Gymnastics	Special Events
School trips & Outings	Languages	Break-time refreshments
Some stationery/ textbooks	Craft resources	ICT
Activities which require the use of the Prep School facilities		

As the government funding only allows us to provide the basic requirements of the EYFS framework, whilst there is the option to 'opt out' of these enhanced activities, this would mean children would not access the enhanced activities; we are happy to discuss this further with you in more detail.

Also, if you opt out of this voluntary payment, we will request that you provide:

- A snack for your child, for each session attended.
- A packed lunch (subject to the sessions that you attend)
- Consumables such as (but not limited to) wipes, nappies, gloves, nappy bags, sun cream etc.
- Cookery ingredients for your child – weekly
- Craft resources for those activities which take us beyond the expected EYFS foundation stage, if you would like your child to engage in these activities

IMPORTANT POINTS

Parents will be sent the funding forms each term, these need to be completed and returned to school and Port Regis will then apply for funding on your behalf. The funding will be paid directly to the school and your school account adjusted accordingly.

The funding split for 2025 – 2026 is:

Autumn Term: 12 weeks

Spring Term: 10 weeks

Summer Term: 10 weeks

You must pre-book your sessions termly in advance as early as possible and before the end of the previous term.

The funding received is set in advance, so no changes to funded hours can be made to a term once it has begun, and that includes ad-hoc sessions and additional time.

You can book late notice sessions, but these will be charged at the School's full rate and will not be eligible for funding.

The School term dates mean that Port Regis can only offer 32 weeks entitlement out of the maximum of 38 weeks. You may access the remainder of the funding entitlement at another approved provider.

Current Charges for 2 yr olds (effective from April 2026)

Session	Timings	Full Cost per Session	Session Cost Split		Voluntary Charge Breakdown		
			Funded Hours £7.77ph	Total Voluntary Charge	Food	Non-Food Consumables	Activities
Morning Session	0815 - 1145	£35	£27.20	£7.80	£1.10	£2.02	£4.68
Lunch Hour	1145 - 1245	£10	No funding available **				
Afternoon Session (including lunch)	1145 - 1530	£35	£29.13	£5.87	£3.30	£1.12	£1.45
Whole Day	0815 - 1530	£70	£56.33	£13.67	£4.40	£3.14	£6.13
ASC	1530 - 1700	£9.30 per hour	No funding available **				

Current Charges for 3 – 4 yr olds (effective from April 2026)

Session	Timings	Full Cost per Session	Session Cost Split		Voluntary Charge Breakdown		
			Funded Hours £5.94ph	Total Voluntary Charge	Food	Non-Food Consumables	Activities
Morning Session	0815 - 1145	£35	£20.79	£14.21	£1.10	£1.11	£12.00
Lunch Hour	1145 - 1245	£10	No funding available **				
Afternoon Session (including lunch)	1145 - 1530	£35	£22.27	£12.73	£4.65	£0.93	£7.15
Whole Day	0815 - 1530	£70	£43.06	£26.94	£5.75	£2.04	£19.15
ASC	1530 - 1700	£9.30 per hour	No funding available **				

**** After School Club**

Nursery and Pre-School: Monday – Friday 15:30 – 17:00

Reception – Year 2: Monday – Thursday 15:30 – 18:00 Friday 15:30 – 17:00

Figures may be subject to change, with the annual review of school fees from September 2026

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will my child be eligible for funding?

You may be entitled to up to 30 hours funded childcare the term after your child's 2nd birthday. Most 3 - 4 yr olds are entitled to 15 hours funding from the term after they are 3 (cut off dates apply). This means it would start either in January, April or September.

How much funding can I use each day?

At Port Regis you can use a maximum of 7hrs 15 mins of funding per day (for 32 weeks of the available 38 per year). You can book anything from 1-10 sessions a week. Charges are outlined in the previous table. You can only claim for the number of hours your child actually attends.

How do I apply for funding?

Once your child has been through the admissions process and started at Port Regis, you will be asked to complete the Dorset County Council Parental Agreement form. Funding will be paid directly to the School.

You will be asked to confirm the sessions for which you would like to use the funding, whether you'll be using any funding elsewhere (at another nursery/child minder/holiday club etc). It is important to fill this form in carefully and not "over" or "under" apply.

Over applications can result in the funding being stopped by Dorset Council until accounts level out which can affect your termly bill.

Once the form has been submitted by us, Dorset County Council will confirm how much funding you are to receive, and we then deduct that amount from the allocated hours on your bill. That monies will be paid directly to the School.

Funding has to be applied for each term and the school will send you the relevant form in advance.

Do you do "funded only" places?

The School will offer a limited number of places to parents who wish only to claim the early years funding entitlement without incurring charges for additional services. Places and sessions are subject to availability.

Can I opt out of the voluntary contributions?

Yes, however, your child will not be able to participate in any enhanced activities and you will need to provide anything outside of the basic requirements of the EYFS framework. Please talk to us if you are considering opting out of the voluntary contributions.

How can I apply for 30/ 2yrs olds hours funding?

To check eligibility and to find out how to apply for additional hours [click here](#).

Can I use funding on additional or ad-hoc sessions?

If you increase your child's sessions during the term you will be able to make an adjustment to your claimed funded hours (up to a maximum of 15 hours / week) Unfortunately you cannot claim for ad-hoc sessions.

When does the funding stop?

Early Years Funded Education ceases when they move into Reception class.

How do I apply to Port Regis for a Nursery place?

You are welcome to book an appointment to meet the Head of Pre-Prep and have a tour of Nursery and Pre-Prep. If you would like to register your child, please complete, sign and return a copy of the Registration Form which can be requested from admissions: admissions@portregis.com, or complete the Enquiry Form via the Registration Portal on the Port Regis [website](#). Your child is then invited for a taster morning after which, if all has gone well, we offer your child a place in our Nursery or Pre-Prep.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Early Years Education funding please contact Sam Byrne, Pre-Prep Administrator by email at sam.byrne@portregis.com

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Example weekly costs

Summer Term 2026

Example weekly bill for a 2-year-old child in nursery, attending 3 morning sessions and in receipt of 30 hours Early Years Funding.

	Per Morning	Total
3 x mornings (10.5 hours)	£35	£105
Less EYF 10.5 hours	£7.77 per hour	(-£81.58)
Amount payable by parents (see below for breakdown)		£23.42

Broken down by the Voluntary Charges

Food 3 mornings x £1.10 = £3.30

Non-food consumables 3 mornings x £2.02 = £6.06

Activities 3 mornings x £4.68 = £14.06

Due from parents = £23.42

To stay for lunch would be a daily charge of £10 on top of the above, this is not eligible for funding. Lunch is included if a child stays for an afternoon session until 15:30

Example weekly bill for a 3 or 4 year-old child in Pre-School, attending 4 full day sessions and in receipt of 30 hours Early Years Funding.

	Per Day	Total
4 x full days (29 hours)	£70	£280
Less EYF 29 hours	£5.94 per hour	(-£172.26)
Amount payable by parents (see below for breakdown)		£107.74

Broken down by the Voluntary Charges

Food 4 days x £5.75 = £23.00

Non-food consumables 4 days x £2.04 = £8.14

Activities 4 days x £19.15 = £76.60

Due from parents = £107.74

Any private hours would be charged at full cost.