



Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)

Purchasing Non Funded ELC Sessions for School Year

Terms and Conditions

2026-2027

A Perth and Kinross where everyone can live life well, free from poverty and inequality

Enabling children and young people achieve full potential

Purchasing Non Funded ELC Terms and Conditions 2026-27

Throughout this guidance, the word 'parent' should be interpreted as including the child's carer or legal guardian

Please note, this information is correct at time of going to print

Updated information is available from the PKC Early Learning and Childcare Team:

Tel: 01738 476200

Email: ELC@pkc.gov.uk

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Introduction

Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) is committed to providing a more flexible Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision for parents and families. This will be achieved by providing opportunities, where available, to purchase non funded ELC within a safe, secure and stimulating high-quality environment.

To make sure there are choices across Perth and Kinross, there are 11 early learning and childcare communities that consist of a mixture of local authority ELC, funded providers and funded childminders. Details of these options are available in the [Nursery locality and attendance patterns](#) page.

Reference is made to **funded** and **non funded** ELC throughout and the definition of each is as follows:

Funded: Scottish Government 1140 funded entitlement (**no payment required**)

Non funded: paying for sessions out with Scottish Government 1140 funded entitlement (**payment in advance required**)

Places for children attending a Perth and Kinross ELC setting, who are eligible for funded ELC provision, are allocated according to the [Early Learning and Childcare Policy and Guidelines for Admissions to Nursery Classes and Early Childhood Centres 2026 – 2027](#).

These terms and conditions are to provide clarity and guidance across local authority settings in the implementation of charges of any non funded ELC sessions out with the normal 1140 hours of funded ELC entitlement that is provided to all 3 and 4 year olds in Scotland. Most funded providers and childminders also offer extended hours sessions. [Find my nearest childcare provider](#).

Places are only available where there is existing capacity and staffing. Perth and Kinross Council reserve the right to hold places to ensure that all children can access their funded ELC entitlement.

Eligibility

Applications can only be made for non funded ELC sessions once your funded ELC place has been offered and accepted.

All 3- 5 year old children and some 2 year old children are entitled to funded ELC. Do you think you may be eligible for a Strong Start 2 placement? Check the eligibility criteria [Funded](#)

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[early learning and childcare for 2 year olds \(Strong Starts\) - Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](#)

Do you think you may be eligible for Welfare Benefits? [Contact the Welfare Rights Team - Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](#)

You can self-refer for a Welfare Benefits check here [Make Welfare Rights Referral - Introduction - Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](#)

Making an Application for Non Funded ELC sessions

Parents and carers can apply for non funded ELC sessions within offers 1 and 2 as listed below.

Parents and carers wishing to make an application for non funded ELC sessions should tick the appropriate box when accepting their funded ELC offer, then follow the steps to apply and submit.

Parents and carers should be aware that although every effort will be made to meet their application request, there is no guarantee that spaces will be available.

If demand exceeds the available number of spaces for non funded ELC sessions, allocation will be on a first come, first served basis. Retained spaces will take priority.

Offer 1

Parents and carers can apply for non funded ELC sessions for their child after their third birthday until they are eligible for their funding from the Scottish Government in all PKC ELC settings.

Offer 1 - Non funded ELC sessions will be charged as below

Session	Hours	Total cost
9am - 3pm	6 x £5.25	£31.50
8.30am - 4.30pm	8 x £5.25	£42.00
8am-1pm/1pm - 6pm	5 x £5.25	£26.25
8am - 12noon	4 x £5.25	£21.00

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Offer 2

Parents and carers will be able to apply for non funded ELC sessions once their funded entitlement has commenced. These will be offered within the ELC settings that are open 45 and 50 weeks of the year. Please see table below for available sessions:

Offer 2 - Non funded ELC sessions will be charged as below.

Session	Hours	Total cost
8am – 8.30am	0.5 x £5.25	£2.62
8am – 9am	1 x £5.25	£5.25
3pm – 4.30pm	1.5 x £5.25	£7.88
4.30pm – 6pm (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday only)	1.5 x £5.25	£7.88

Offer 1 and Offer 2 includes a snack (if applicable). Meals (lunch/tea) are payable in advance at £2.42 per meal. If you wish your child to have a meal, you are required to opt into and pay for this option in advance for the following month. Alternatively, you may prefer to provide your child with a packed meal.

Do you think you may be eligible for free school meals? Further information and how to apply can be found on PKC website. [Free school meals and school clothing grants - primary and secondary - Perth & Kinross Council](#)

Terms and Conditions – Offer 1 and Offer 2

- Purchasing non funded ELC sessions within **Offer 1** is only available in the Early Learning and Childcare setting in which your child was offered a funded ELC placement and within the attendance pattern that you were offered.
- Purchasing non funded ELC sessions within **Offer 2** is only available in the Early Learning and Childcare setting in which your child was offered a funded ELC placement and dependant on the attendance pattern that you were offered. These sessions are only available in settings which are open 45 and 50 weeks per year. Sessions are guaranteed for the current 2026/2027 ELC year.
- Should your child's funded ELC offer change in any way, then parents and carers must reapply for non funded ELC sessions in respect of any changes.

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- To change, add or terminate any sessions, 14 days' notice will be required. Please email ELCCharging@pkc.gov.uk.
- Payments are due on the 1st of the month in advance.
- Payment can be made by card via telephone, [Tax-Free Childcare scheme or childcare vouchers](#).
- Please set up a tax-free childcare account at Tax Free Childcare on the Scottish Government website [Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) **This must be set up prior to your child starting their non funded ELC place.**
- Telephone number for all card payments **01738 472350**.
- For all payment enquiries please contact ELCCharging@pkc.gov.uk
- You are liable for payment for a full session, even if you pick your child up early.
- Should your child be unable to attend for any reason including sickness, please note that refunds will not be issued. However, should PKC have to cancel a session for any reason, you will be entitled to a refund.
- **Non-payment** will mean that your child will no longer be able to access non funded ELC placements. Parents will be required to pay any outstanding amounts prior to accessing any further sessions booked.
This will not affect your accepted funded ELC placement.
- Please ensure that children are picked up on time according to your agreed non funded ELC patterns. Additional charges may occur, and PKC have the right to cancel your non funded ELC sessions should late pick up impact staffing and nursery closing times.

Holidays

45-week and 50-week ELC settings will be open over selected holidays. Sessions will be available as normal. If you do not wish to access your non funded sessions on these days, then please contact ELCCharging@pkc.gov.uk. As per the terms and conditions, 14 days' notice of amendments is required, and your payments will be amended accordingly.

Exceptional Circumstances

If a child is absent due to long-term illness (over 2 weeks) or other exceptional family circumstances, consideration will be given to suspending payment in consultation with the parents and carers and other appropriate professionals.

Allocation of Non Funded ELC sessions

Parents and carers will receive an offer by email from ELCCharging@pkc.gov.uk. This offer and related conditions must be accepted before the non funded ELC sessions can commence.

Transition into the ELC setting for Offer 1

Parents and carers will receive an email with information regarding transition visits:

- **Visit one** – a short visit to meet the staff and have a tour of the setting. Parents and carers are required to stay with their child during the visit and complete the ELC Enrolment Form, All About Me and any other relevant documents.
- **Visit two** - a short settle visit. This is a visit agreed with the setting for the child to attend nursery on their own for a short time within their accepted attendance pattern.
- Parents and carers **will not** be charged for these first two visits.
- Following these two visits, payment will commence for the non funded ELC sessions as confirmed on the acceptance form.

Offer 2 transition will be in agreement with the ELC setting.

FAQs

1.What is non funded ELC?

Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) is committed to providing a more flexible Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision for parents and families. This will be achieved by providing opportunities, where available, to purchase non funded ELC within a safe, secure and stimulating high-quality environment.

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Offer 1 – this gives parents and carers the option to apply and pay for non funded ELC sessions for their child on the day after their third birthday until they are eligible for their funded ELC placement from the Scottish Government.

Offer 2 – At 45-week and 50-week nursery settings (**with the exception of Inchview, Letham, Community School of Auchterarder and Pitlochry****) parents and carers will be able to apply and pay for non funded ELC sessions to extend the length of time their child attends nursery. Parents can apply for these sessions once their child's funded ELC placement has commenced.

Available sessions to apply and pay for are:

8am – 8.30am

8am – 9am

3pm – 4.30pm

4.30pm – 6pm (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday only)

****Offer 2** – Please note extended sessions at Inchview, Letham, Community School of Auchterarder and Pitlochry can only be applied for through the wraparound care service. [Kids clubs and wraparound care services - Opening times, booking places, costs and holidays - Perth & Kinross Council](#).

2. How many sessions can my child attend?

Offer 1

Parents and carers can apply and pay for one or more sessions within their accepted pattern.

Offer 2

Parents and carers can choose to extend the length of time their child stays at nursery by applying and paying for sessions as detailed above.

3. Which nursery can my child attend?

Offer 1 & Offer 2

Non funded ELC sessions are only available in the setting that your child was offered and has accepted for their funded ELC placement.

4. How much does it cost?

Session costs are detailed in the tables below and includes a snack. A school meal is optional at a cost of £2.42.

Free school meals - Parents/carers can find further information and apply on PKC website if they think they may be eligible for free school meals. [Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](http://Perth & Kinross Council (pkc.gov.uk))

Offer 1

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8am - 12noon	4 x £5.25	£21.00

Offer 2

Session	Hours	Total cost
8am – 8.30am	0.5 x £5.25	£2.62
8am – 9am	1 x £5.25	£5.25
3pm – 4.30pm	1.5 x £5.25	£7.88
4.30pm – 6pm (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday only)	1.5 x £5.25	£7.88

5. What is the transition process?

Offer 1

Your child will have two transition visits.

The first is a visit to see around the nursery, and for the family to stay to meet the team. You will fill out the enrolment form, consent forms, All About me and any other forms required e.g. medication.

The second visit is a short settle visit. Your child will stay for a short while on their own within their accepted pattern.

There are no charges for these first 2 visits.

Offer 2 transition will be in agreement with the ELC setting.

6. How do I make my payments?

Payments are due by the 1st of each month in advance for Offer 1 and Offer 2.

Payments can be made by card payment by calling 01738 472350 or by Tax-Free Childcare. For more information on Tax-Free Childcare, please visit [Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare)

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

BSL users can contact us via Contact Scotland BSL, the online British Sign Language video relay interpreting service. Find out more on the Contact Scotland BSL website <https://contactscotland-bsl.org>