

Schools Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Early Education & Childcare Effective from 1 November 2025

Summary of Changes

The Memorandum of Understanding governing Early Education Funding sets out the terms and conditions applicable to all schools delivering funded early education entitlements. It is essential that participating schools comply with the provisions outlined in this document.

The wording of the Memorandum has been revised to align with the updated statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education earlier this year. While the core funding conditions remain largely unchanged, the revisions primarily clarify the rules concerning charges for additional hours and optional services, including meals, non-food consumables, and extra-curricular activities.

Although the legislation itself has not changed, the updated guidance offers clearer direction for both local authorities and providers regarding the application of additional charges.

A summary of the amended clauses is provided below:

Clause/s	Changes
2.2	Additional clarity included.
7.5	Additional clarity included regarding hours that children do not attend.
10.2	Updated to reflect revised DfE Model Agreement published 1 April 2025.
11.13a	Additional clarity included.
Clauses 12.1-12.16	Updated to reflect the revised DfE statutory guidance on charging that came into effect on 1 April 2025.
13.8	Additional clarity included if providers are unable to offer all hours originally agreed in the Parental Agreement.
14.7	New clauses regarding compliance checks/audits.
16.5	New clause to provide clarity on funding implications where children do not regularly attend.
Annex C	Childcare Offer & Charges Template – added to support providers to ensure all required information is made available on their website, or the Council Family Information website.