

Primrose Hill Primary School

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21st February 2017

Dear Parents & Carers

A Message from Camden Regarding Changes to Nursery Places (3 – 4 year olds) from Sept 2017

This is to let our parents and carers know that Camden is introducing some new policy this year which will affect free nursery places in Camden.

1. The first is a new offer of 30 hours' free early education for working parents who meet certain criteria:
 - ***both parents, or the sole parent in a one parent family, must be working***
 - ***each parent must have a weekly minimum income equivalent to 16 hours at the national minimum wage or living wage, and***
 - ***neither parent must have income of more than £100,000 per year.***

Historically, Camden have funded 30 hours of nursery education but this is changing from September.

All three and four year olds will remain entitled to 15 hours of free early education (15 hours a week for 38 weeks, up to the total of 570 hours).

This means the Camden 'enhanced offer' of 30 hours for all three and four year olds in school and Council-run nurseries will need to change.

The time to develop and agree a revised offer for Camden families has been very tight - but a public consultation about a revised offer targeted at the children of non-working parents who have met the criteria for the national offer of funded early year places for 2 year olds is now open.

There are 2 consultations, one with more technical questions for providers and one about the Camden's proposed new early years offer for parents. You can find these consultations on the Council website at:

www.camden.gov.uk/earlyyearsfunding

The final decision about Camden's revised early education offer will be made by the Council's Cabinet in April. This means that schools will only be able to make a provisional offer of 15 hours to all children and will determine eligibility for both the Government entitlement for the children of working parents and any additional offer that Camden may decide to fund in the future.

We are aware that the uncertainty about the number of hours for which your child will be funded makes it difficult for you to plan your childcare arrangements. It also provides a challenge to school in setting budgets and planning staffing. Schools are keen to work with Camden to ensure

a swift and smooth transition to the new funding arrangements, and to ensure that standards are not affected. Camden assures us that they will do everything they can to minimise the difficulty caused by the extremely tight timeframe allowed for us to respond to changes in national policy.

Please speak to me if you have any questions regarding this.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Warren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Warren
Head Teacher