

Stretched Offer Guidance

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Early Education Funding

Each term there are set weeks and hours which can be claimed for a child. Over 38 funded weeks, this totals 570 hours per year for 15-hour children and 1,140 hours per year for 30-hour children.

Term	Funded Weeks	Funded/Universal	Expanded/Extended
Autumn	14	210	420
Spring	11	165	330
Summer	13	195	390
Total per funding year	38	570	1140

Stretched Funding

Stretched funding is for children who will use their funded entitlement across more weeks than the standard 38 funded weeks, i.e. fewer hours over more weeks.

Hours to be used outside of the 38 weeks, term time, are claimed each term. The provider holds this funding to use during the holiday weeks.

Term	Funded Weeks	Weeks available for stretched offers	Funded/Universal	Expanded/Extended
Autumn	14	17	210	420
Spring	11	13	165	330
Summer	13	22	195	390
Total per funding year	38	52	570	1140

Stretched funding can also be for children of shift workers (such as those who work for emergency services/in hospitals or the horse racing industry), who may not be able to attend the same hours each week. A stretched offer can be used to ensure the total number of hours claimed are recorded correctly as a 'per week' figure, even if the attendance pattern differs from week to week.

Stretched Offer Agreement

Stretched funding can be done on a termly basis or over the course of a year.

It is the responsibility of the provider and the parent/carer to agree how the stretched offer will be taken. This should be done using a stretched offer agreement.

We have a stretched offer calculator available for termly or annual stretched offers. Examples of stretched offer agreements can be found within the calculator spreadsheet at the link below:

[PAF-Stretched Offer-Ethnicity codes – Suffolk Learning](#)

However, if providers wish to create their own stretched offer agreement, it must contain the following declaration:

I agree that the Childcare Provider named above may claim additional hours in a term on behalf of my child so that my child can access early education hours during holiday weeks.	I agree <input type="checkbox"/>
I agree and understand that if my child leaves this provider part way through a funding year then the payment for any additional hours that have been claimed in a previous term but not yet accessed will remain with this provider.	I agree <input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that this means that my child cannot then access these additional hours elsewhere during this funding year.	I understand <input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Parent/Carer:	
Signature:	
Date:	

Stretched Offer Calculator

The Stretched Offer Calculator has a “How To” page and there are also multiple examples available.

Once you have completed the Stretched Offer Calculator, you can print the calculator and the declaration for the parent to sign. This then acts as your Stretched Offer Agreement.

PAF

If there is a stretched offer agreement in place, this must be indicated on the PAF in section 2b. The stretched offer agreement must also be attached to the PAF.

The parent/carer must tick to agree they understand that if their child leaves the provider part way through a funding year and has been accessing a stretched offer, there may be instances where either their child or the provider may lose funded hours.

Provider portal

Yearly Stretched Offers

- The Provider Portal will not allow you to claim for an entire year during a term.
- You will only ever be able to claim the total amount of hours available in a term.
- If you are offering a full year stretched offer, please work out how many hours in total you will need to claim for across the year, and make sure that you claim for enough across the three terms.
- This might involve you claiming for more hours in one term than the child attends to make sure you get enough hours – this is known as ‘banking’ hours.
- You **cannot** bank hours if you are only stretching over one term. A yearly stretched offer shows the intention to claim less hours for more weeks over *multiple* terms and should highlight when the banked hours will be used. Without this agreement in place, Suffolk County Council cannot allow providers to claim for more hours than are being used in a term, as there would be nothing to show parental agreement and how/when the funding for these extra hours will be used.

To work out yearly stretched offers, you need to keep the total number of hours claimed in mind, rather than the hours per week. There are 570 hours available for both funded/universal and expanded/extended, adding up to a maximum total of 1140 for children accessing universal and extended hours.

Weekly Hours

- It is expected that, when you are inputting a stretched offer, the hours per week entered within the Provider Portal might not accurately reflect the actual attendance pattern of a child. This is especially true when stretching over multiple terms or a year.

To input these details into the Provider Portal, use the Stretched Offer Calculator to work out what your claim should look like. This is highlighted in section 4 of the Stretched Offer Calculator.

The Stretched Offer Calculator can be found at the link below:

[PAF-Stretched Offer-Ethnicity codes – Suffolk Learning](#)

Shared Stretched Offers

Please take extra care when inputting stretched offers for children who are also attending at another setting.

Make sure that both you and the other setting involved know exactly how many hours you need to claim for within the term before you submit.