

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Early Learning and Childcare: EASTER 2021
Sanderson's Wynd Nursery**

The Scottish Government is committed to increasing the funded entitlement to Early Learning & Childcare for all eligible 3-4 year olds from 600 hours to 1140 hours. This was due to be introduced across all settings (local authority and funded providers) from August 2020. However the outbreak of coronavirus led the Scottish Government to delayed the statutory duty to August 2021.

East Lothian Council has already phased in 1140 hours in some parts of the country. As part of the planned phasing, from 19 April 2021 Sanderson's Wynd Nursery will increase the number of hours and weeks available to children attending that setting.

1140 Early Learning & Childcare Hours – how will the additional hours be offered?

Children will continue to attend on the same days – either Monday and Tuesday or Wednesday and Thursday, and alternate Friday up to 9.5hrs each day.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday (Alt)
Mon/Tues Group	9.5hrs between 8.00-18.00	9.5hrs between 8.00-18.00			9.5hrs between 8.00-18.00
Wed/Thurs Group			9.5hrs between 8.00-18.00	9.5hrs between 8.00-18.00	(every 2 nd Friday)

As part of the phasing in of the new model for 1140hrs, Sanderson's Wynd Nursery will, if there is demand, be open over the Summer break between July and August.

Please note these hours will only be available if there is a reasonable demand for places.

Blended Placements

Scottish Government Guidance states that in order to minimise the number of contacts and risk of COVID-19 transmission, *“attendance at multiple early learning and childcare settings should be reduced as far as possible. Parents and carers should be encouraged and supported to limit the number of settings their child attends, ideally ensuring their child only attends the same setting consistently”*

All providers are following this guidance and it may mean they are unable to support blended placements at this time.

If you would like to request a blended placement, please discuss this firstly with your current funded provider then email nams@eastlothian.gov.uk confirming the discussion and providing detail of days and times you wish to attend each setting. Your request for a blended model will be considered and you will be informed of the decision. Please note that payments for funded hours can only be made once the blended placement has been agreed.



What do I need to do next?

Please complete the form <https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/education/elc-easter-2021/> by **Monday 8 March 2021** confirming the hours your child will attend and the weeks you would like use over the Summer Holidays. You should note that once you have received confirmation of your Summer Holiday placement we will be unable to make changes at a later date.

If your child is returning to Sanderson's Wynd Nursery in August 2021 we will contact you again in May 2021 to confirm the 1140hrs model being offered for academic year 2021/22

You should be aware that a place in an Early Learning & Childcare setting does not guarantee a place in Primary 1 at that school if you live outwith the school's catchment area.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Brown', written in a cursive style.

Fiona Brown
Principal Officer, Education Business Unit