

FACT SHEET – STRETCHED OFFER

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the stretched offer?

Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) is Government Funding available for 15 hours (or 30 hours if eligible) over 38 weeks of the year for eligible children. This potentially leaves 14 weeks where parents / carers will not receive any funding if their child attends a childcare provider for more than 38 weeks of the year. The Government's guidance allows childcare providers to offer stretched hours, although this is not mandatory and is a private business decision for the provider. Therefore, parents / carers can receive funding all year round if they want, by spreading their 570 hours (universal FEEE) or 1,140 hours (extended 30 hours FEEE) over the number of weeks their child attends. Below is an example of a calculation for a child attending a setting for 50 weeks per year. This could allow parent's or carers the following stretched offer:

Universal 15-hour offer (570 annually)

570 hours / 50 weeks = 11.44 hours per week stretched

Extended 30-hour offer (1140 annually)

1140 hours / 50 weeks = 22.8 hours per week stretched

Please note that the above calculation is based on a child attending the setting from the Autumn Period. If a child joins in the Spring or Summer period, they will have less hours to stretch over fewer weeks as Government funding is pro rata from when their child becomes eligible.

What are stretched hours?

Stretching hours is where parents / carers can use less hours per week but over a longer period e.g., approximately 11.5 hours per week for 50 weeks. This is limited to total hours available in a period.

Stretched hours are usually utilised by parents / carers when their child attends a setting all year round, allowing them to use less of their funded hours over more weeks. Stretching their hours allows for their FEEE hours as well as any additional costs that parents / carers may incur to be spread in equal payments over the number of weeks their child attends, meaning parents / carers aren't hit with large bills in holiday periods. As a result, stretched hours are a popular choice for parents / carers.

What are banked hours?

Banking hours is where parents / carers can use less hours in one period and then use the remainder in another e.g., through the summer holidays.



Children not claiming their full entitlement of 15 / 30 hours during term-time, can bank their funded hours for use in holiday periods. Banked hours are usually claimed when parents / carers decide they want their child to do extra hours in the holidays, and have spare hours accrued from not previously claiming their full entitlement.

What is the difference between stretching and banking?

Stretching is taking the same funded hours each week consistently, whereas banking is using spare hours accrued on ad hoc sessions.

How many stretched hours can be claimed per period?

The maximum number of hours that can be claimed in each period for stretched hours is displayed on the [FEEE Calendar](#).

How many banked hours can be claimed per period?

The maximum number of hours that can be claimed in each period for banked hours is displayed on the [FEEE Calendar](#).

If a parent / carer is using two providers and the other provider is offering stretched funding, do I have to offer stretched funding?

No, if a parent/carer is using two providers and the other provider is offering stretched funding you do not have to. However, as stretched hours are a popular choice with parents / carers, it is an additional selling point for your provision if you do have this as an option.

Do school leavers lose out in the Summer Period if they use stretched funding?

No, school leavers do not lose out in the Summer period if they use stretch funding. Providers may need to re-calculate their stretched hours over one less week, depending on how many weeks a school leaver can claim over the Summer period. Please always check the current [FEEE Calendar](#) which will specify how many weeks should be claimed for any school leavers.

When do you have to use your banked hours by?

Once a child has banked hours, you can use them at any time within the academic year, provided you do not exceed the 15 or 30 maximum hours per week. Parents / carers usually choose to bank hours and use them during holiday periods or an ad hoc session.

If a child moves to my setting mid-period, can they stretch their hours?

Yes, but only if they have enough hours remaining. If the child has moved from another setting you will need to check how many funded hours remain before you can calculate their stretched offer. To find out how many spare hours a child may have, please email fee@leics.gov.uk who will be able to advise you.



Can you stretch or bank hours if your setting hasn't done it before?

Yes, you can stretch or bank hours if your setting hasn't done it before. Whilst there is no obligation to offer stretched hours, if you can accommodate a request, we would recommend you doing so.

How do you stretch hours over the Summer holidays?

If a parent / carer wishes to stretch their hours during the summer period, firstly you need to establish how many hours the child has remaining. You then calculate the stretched hours by dividing the number of hours they have, by the total number of stretched weeks available in the Summer Period. For actual dates, please view the [FEEE Calendar](#).

If a child is on holiday or off sick, what happens to their stretched hours?

If a child is on holiday or sick for a short period of time, you can still claim the stretched hours and no money would be reclaimed. In the case of a longer absence, please contact the FEEE Team at fee@leics.gov.uk.

How do I claim for stretched hours on the headcount / adjustment task?

You will need to input the number of weeks on the Provider Portal that you are stretching for in the period, please refer to the [FEEE Calendar](#) for further guidance. You also need to tick the 'Stretching Entitlement' box on the 'Funding Details' tab.

When will I receive payment for banked hours?

Payment for banked hours submitted on the headcount will be paid with the actual payment amount. If you have submitted any banked hours on the adjustment task, you will receive payment for these hours at the next payment point. For any banked hours that are claimed on the late adjustment, these will be paid in the following period on an ad hoc basis, For actual payment dates, please view the [FEEE Calendar](#).

How do I obtain a breakdown of my stretched hours payments?

You can find details of your headcount payments made by logging into the Provider Portal and looking on the 'Summary' tab. Please note that whilst the FEEE Team are processing the submission, the data you see may change daily – please do not contact the FEEE Team until it has been confirmed that the payments have been fully processed, as they could be amended until this date.

To view your adjustment payment in the Provider Portal, you will need to log in and access the relevant headcount for the period and click on the 'Adjustment' tab. You can see the total amount due to be paid under 'Paid as Adjustments'. If you click on the arrow to the left of this, you can view the children who have been processed and it will state what is going to be paid for each child. Please also refer to the 'Reason' column as this will show if your original claim has been reduced by the FEEE Team and for what reason. If the system states 'Not Paid' this will be because you owe the

local authority funding back and it will show the amount owed in brackets, which will be deducted from your next payment.

To view a late adjustment payment, you will be able to find out what has been paid in the 'Adjustments' tab in the Provider Portal of the current period. For example, a late spring adjustment will appear in the current summer period, as this will be when it is processed by the FEEE Team. You will also receive an email from the FEEE Team once the late adjustment has been processed informing you of the payment and date to be paid.



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For more FEEE information for Providers, please visit the [FEEE Website for Providers](#)