



Meeting the costs of the Early Years

A relationship with Edinburgh Steiner School can begin as early as pregnancy, as our range of groups encourage bumps, babies and young children to come together to enjoy group and individual play, crafts, baking and songs; offering Parent & Baby / Toddler Groups, Playgroup and a registered Kindergarten, before moving to Class 1 in the Autumn Term following the child's 6th birthday (equivalent to P2; or P3 for a January-February born child).

We understand that for many children, these early years sessions provide a stepping-stone before they make the progression into the school; and for some, Playgroup or Kindergarten is the first time away from the home without a parent/carer. For this reason, **Edinburgh Steiner School is the only early years setting attached to an independent school welcoming children to come fewer than five days a week.**

It has long been an ambition of the School that access to a Steiner education should not depend solely on the ability to pay fees. This booklet is just one of the ways the School hopes to help its parents. It collates the various government schemes that are available to parents to help meet the costs of childcare in Scotland; alongside Edinburgh Steiner School's own fee structure, which offers the 5th day in Playgroup or Kindergarten free, the Bursary - which is open to Kindergarten children, and the Family Support Fund. 1 in 5 pupils were helped last year by the combined grant funds in the whole School. Tens of more children benefited from attending five days a week at the 4-day rate.

Of the 34 independent schools in Scotland, Edinburgh Steiner School's fees are still lowermost (2019/20) for 14-18 years-old pupils. The next two closest fee-paying schools in Edinburgh in terms of cost are 128% and up to 158% of ours. For a parent of a Kindergarten child, this is a far-off consideration; with costs often being calculated on a daily or even hourly rate. However, **our School is one of the few schools in the sector offering a co-educational school from 2 – 18-years-olds;** meaning parents have the option to choose an education for their child's whole school career as a '**first choice**', years ahead of it becoming a 'last option' further up in the School journey.

A booklet that is addressing the financial commitment associated with giving your child a Steiner education, therefore, needs to also note the yields from this investment that reach far beyond the immediate capacity for the parent / carer to undertake other commitments during this period of provision. Steiner education understands the first seven years are critical in determining the future wellbeing of children, as this is when the foundations are laid for later learning and healthy development. It takes a village to raise a child. And as a community-school, the 'child care' provided is deeply rooted in the pastoral principles of child-rearing.

With children joining Edinburgh Steiner School without a parent / carer from the age of two, specialist Steiner-trained Early Years teachers are building on these first experiences, taking responsibility for a vital role in role-modelling and scaffolding a child's natural urge to explore and experiment.

Since young children learn by imitation, our Kindergarten teachers lead by example, **prioritising and promoting physical, social, emotional and spiritual growth equally with intellectual progress, with a focus on real rather than virtual experiences** to support the child in forming a healthy relationship to the world. To this end, learning gains meaning when it bears relevance to real life experiences. The learning experience for children under the age of seven in our early years settings is therefore **integrated and not subject based**.

Water-colour painting, modelling, hand-crafts and baking awaken creativity, while the imagery of fairy tales, poetry, plays and songs encourages the child's language skills and feelings. Circle games and outdoor play increase physical strength, agility and grace while seasonal festivals develop a meaningful connection with nature. The rhythm of daily life in the Kindergarten is simple and unhurried without the notions of 'achievement', 'success', or 'failure'.

Our pedagogy emphasizes the role of imagination in learning, striving to integrate holistically the intellectual, artistic and practical development of pupils (referred to as head, heart, hand). In the early years it does this by working with the child's WILL, supported by the important guiding principles of Rhythm and Repetition, and Creative Free Play not driven by learning outcomes. Care of the developing senses is fostered through the provision of rich and natural sensory experiences, using only materials of exceptional qualities: beeswax, high-pigment colour (watercolour paints, beeswax crayons, silk veils, handcrafted wooden playthings).

Children are also profoundly affected by their built environment. This is why significant value is placed on maximizing natural light, incorporating nature and the seasons, and designing child-friendly architectural spaces that provide open areas for children to define. A kitchen in each of the four rooms imitates the 'home'.

The fact that the purpose-built Early Years building is situated in the heart of the campus in enclosed mature gardens means that the transition from early years to formal learning, and then again to the critical thinking and examinations years, is supported by peers who have grown up together, and the consistent outside classroom-without-a-roof that expands as they mature.

Resilience and emotional intelligence set a child in good stead for formal learning. The Lower School focuses on developing artistic expression and social capacities. In the Upper School, critical reasoning and empathic understanding is developed. Whilst our exam results are well above the Scottish average and compare favourably with other independent schools in Scotland, placing us in the Top 15 Scottish Schools taking Highers (2019), the overarching goal is to develop free, morally responsible, and integrated individuals, equipped with a high degree of social competence. Habits acquired in childhood tend to stay with us life-long.

“As teachers we are always conscious of how the work the children do in Kindergarten will prepare them for how they learn in the Upper School. It might sound far-fetched, but if a child has the confidence and skills to lay a table for snack at 6, they will be better prepared to stand up and make a presentation at 16.

**Alistair Pugh,
Upper School Subject Teacher**

Edinburgh Steiner School is the only School in Scotland providing an important alternative to mainstream independent schools based upon the principles of the internationally recognised Steiner Waldorf curriculum. Important foundations for this educational philosophy are cultivated in the first seven years of a child’s life.

An Alternative Educational Passport

The close relationship between a broad, creative curriculum and the development of the natural capacities necessary for creative thinking and autonomy of action across all disciplines is central to Steiner Education but increasingly at odds with an exam-driven wider educational context. The pressures to achieve within an exam-based system inevitably devalue time spent on integrating other important learning opportunities; and fail to meet the learning needs of all pupils. In Scotland, children as young as 4 ½ years old are now entering a narrow test-and-target driven curriculum, with P1 SNSA testing.

Those students whose learning styles do not sit well with formal learning and summative exam assessments are at greater risk of becoming disillusioned, disengaged, stressed and even disruptive. Even those who are well-suited to formal learning in the teenage years are not best served in an exam-driven environment that is necessarily backward-looking and based upon what was important some years previously when the exam criteria were set, rather than providing preparation for acting in an increasingly complex and uncertain world. More damaging still is the way the current system places undue stress upon finite fact regurgitation and training to pass exams, rather than creative understanding and engagement with principles as continually developing concepts.

“The emphasis in Waldorf education on implicit learning—on the arts, on things that you do manually, on language—is a very good thing because that emphasizes the strengths of the child during that stage of development. More than ever nowadays, where things are changing, where the way we interact with the world has become so much more indirect because of new technologies, where we need to cope with a completely different sensory environment, this type of education is more important than ever.”

Nobel Laureate (Neuroscience) & Waldorf graduate, Dr Thomas Sudh f

A lot of people in mainstream health and medicine in the world’s top medical journals are now generally justifying what Steiner education has been doing for a very long time, especially in the areas of meaningful play, screen time, physical literacy and a trans-disciplinary, broad curriculum. These encouraging developments in hard science and fact reveal not only how far ahead of its time the education was when it first began, but also how it continues to address the fundamentals that remain constant. There is a strong argument emerging out of this large body of research that the paybacks of arming the younger generations with such a holistic education as is found in the Steiner curriculum

has never been higher, as our young children are growing up in a contemporary culture that has evolved faster than our biology.

Campaigning for the 'Kindergarten' stage to extend to incorporate the 5 - 7 year olds in mainstream education, (see Upstart Scotland), literary specialist and author Sue Palmer cautions children still have to move along that developmental continuum, acquiring the habits of civilized behaviour; and these learning processes cannot be rushed through.

"Focused attention, deferred gratification, self-control, empathy and other important lessons can't be learnt at electric speed. Human development happens in 'slow time', and contemporary children need the same time-consuming, old-fashioned nurturing that small, highly intelligent primates have needed through the ages," says Sue Palmer.

This unhurried environment becomes ever harder to maintain in the home life of children, with modern social changes including both parents working, far fewer extended families, parents bringing up children alone, pressures of work increasing, marriages less stable and divorce widespread; layered by billions of pounds spent on food lobbying; in less than two decades, technology has transformed our homes; and legions of parenting experts giving advice on junk food, additives, sugar highs, couch-potato kids, pester power, battery children, electronic babysitters, and technobrats.

"This clash between our technology-driven culture and our biological heritage is now damaging children's ability to think, learn and behave, with behavioural problems in young people doubling in the last thirty years and emotional problems have increased by 70%" continues Palmer in *Toxic Childhood*, a book collating the latest research from around the world on childhood behaviour caused by a culture change that happened so rapidly we're only just beginning to notice the extent of the collateral damage.

The important ingredient of the Kindergarten curriculum is 'play'. Play for young children is not recreational activity...it is thinking time, language time, problem solving time, memory time, planning time, investigating time. It is the work of a child. Play time in a Steiner early years setting banks educational experiences that strive to instil an insatiable curiosity for learning, a consistent school life that can bridge changes in home routines and work, and friendships able to span a whole school career (and beyond). It is also cultivating integral foundations for English literacy and numeracy.

Children do need the opportunity to learn to make choices, but it is up to their parents to decide which choices to offer.

Here is a guide for the academic year 2020/21 for both working and home-making parents. We hope it is fruitful.

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This guide is meant for illustrative purposes only, as a way to help prospective parents with affordability considerations.

Fees are not charged by the hour; the monthly amount is dependent on your child's start date and when the direct debit is set up; and Afternoon Care is booked and invoiced every half-term (six points in the academic year).

The figures in this guide are based on a child starting at the beginning of the next academic year: Friday 28th August, 2020 – Tuesday 29th June, 2021.

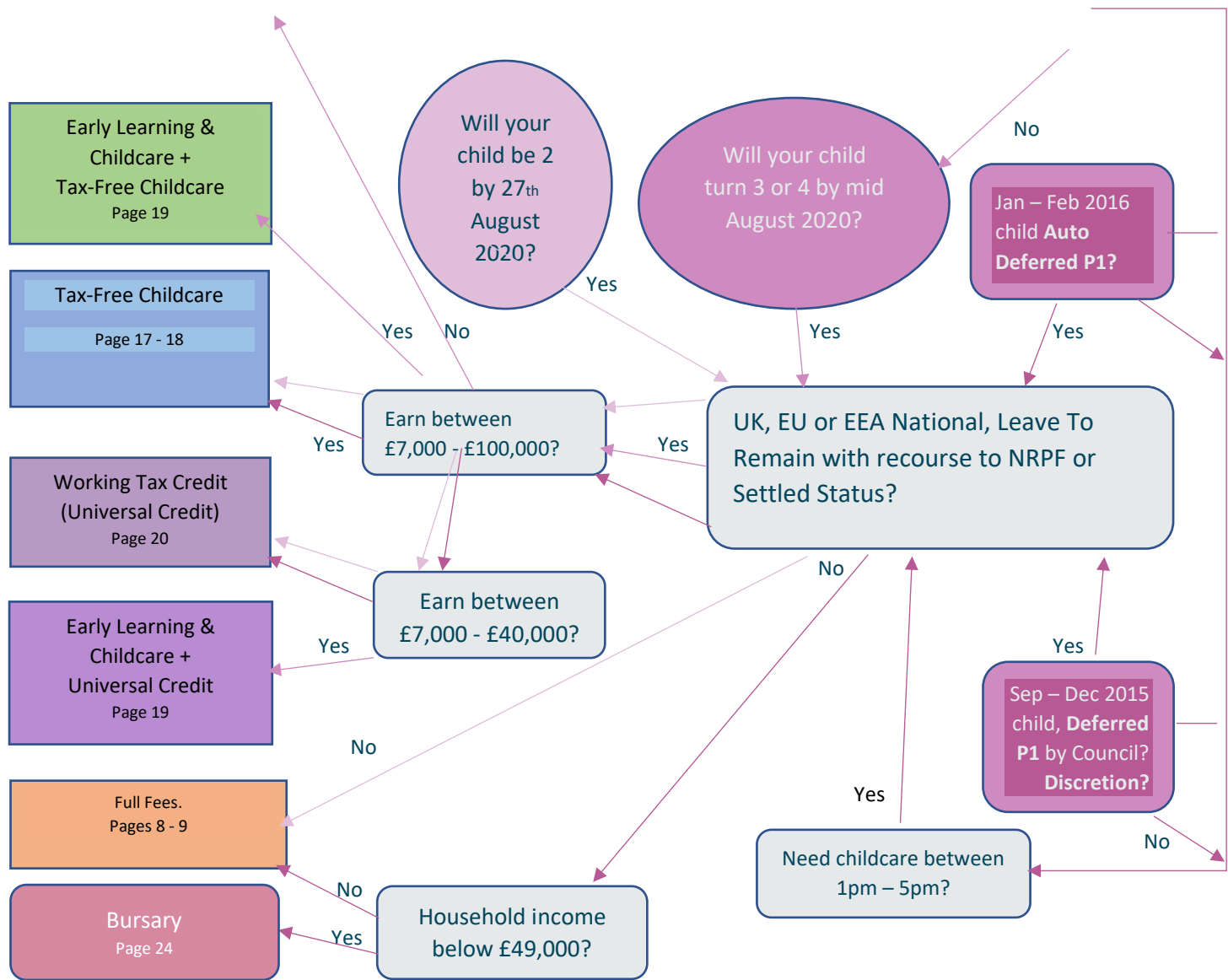
The introduction of the 1,140 hours government scheme, scheduled for 2021/22, will mean that that this guide is relevant for the academic year 2020/21 only. Payment is outlined on page 27.



Eligibility Graph For Financial Support

Early Learning &
Childcare (EYC) funding.
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Was your child born between 1st
March 2015 – 28th February 2016?



2020/21	Annual fees	Hourly	EYC	EYC & Tax Free	Tax-Free Childcare	Universal Credit/ Working Tax Credit	Bursary
1pm	PLAYGROUP / KINDERGARTEN						
2	£3,064	£10.45	£6.55	£5.32	£10.45	Up to 85% reduction	60% - 100% of annual fees
3	£4,569	£10.34	£6.44	£5.23	£10.34		
4	£6,092	£10.39	£6.49	£5.27	£10.39		
5	£6,092	£8.33	£5.13	£4.17	£8.33		
3.15pm	AFTERNOON CARE						
2	£3,996	£8.80	£4.90	£3.92	£8.60	Up to 85% reduction	n/a on Afternoon Care costs
3	£5,973	£8.72	£5.31	£4.24	£8.53		
4	£7,955	£8.76	£6.18	£4.94	£8.56		
5	£8,414	£7.43	£5.36	£4.29	£7.20		
5pm	AFTERNOON CARE						
2	£4,720	£8.21	£4.31	£3.45	£7.34	Up to 85% reduction	n/a on Afternoon Care costs
3	£7,065	£8.15	£5.45	£4.36	£7.28		
4	£9,404	£8.18	£6.14	£4.91	£7.31		
5	£10,220	£7.13	£5.50	£4.40	£6.30		

The Playgroup & Kindergarten Day



Monday – Friday
8.40am – 12.55pm
(4 hours 15 mins per day)

Afternoon care until
3.15pm or 5pm.

Both the Playgroup and Kindergarten are registered with the Care Inspectorate in Scotland.

Sessions per week	Annual 2020/21	Monthly Aug – July	Hours/week Kindie	Total days in academic year	Average total days	Average total hours (Kindie)	Per hour	
2*	£3,064	£255	4 hr 15 mins /day Kindie	8 hrs 30 mins	67 - 70	69	293 hr 15 mins	£10.45
3	£4,569	£381	12 hrs 45 mins	102 - 105	104	442	£10.34	
4	£6,092	£508	17 hrs	137 - 139	138	586 hr 30 mins	£10.39	
5	£6,092	£508	21 hrs 15 mins	172	172	731	£8.33	

*2 sessions a week available to Playgroup children aged 2 and over. A child can start Kindergarten from age 3.5-years, and will begin Class 1 aged 6-7 years old, depending on their birth date.

Parents can choose to increase their child’s experience from 2 - 5 sessions by a morning a year e.g. at 2 years old attend 2 mornings; at age 4, attend 4 mornings. Other children attend 5 days a week from the beginning.

Full Day (Early Years)



Afternoon Care dovetails the end of the Playgroup/Kindergarten day; and is run Monday – Friday during term time.

It is £6 per hour.

It is booked and invoiced per half term, according to the requirements of the parent(s) and availability. Two options for pick-up time available.

The annual/monthly cost illustration below assumes the childcare is the same throughout the whole academic year.

	Until 3.15pm: £13.50			Until 5pm: £24.00		
	6 hours 35 mins per day			8 hours 20 minutes per day		
Sessions	Annual 2020/21	Monthly Aug - July	£/hour	Annual 2020/21	Monthly Aug - July	£/hour
2	£3,996	£333	£8.80	£4,720	£393	£8.21
3	£5,973	£498	£8.72	£7,065	£589	£8.15
4	£7,955	£663	£8.76	£9,404	£784	£8.18
5	£8,414	£701	£7.43	£10,220	£852	£7.13

Early Years & Childcare (EYC)

16 hours childcare per week

When your child is aged 3 and 4 years old, the Scottish government provide up to 600 hours of funded early learning and childcare a year (around 16 hours a week in term time).

Children will receive funding from the term after their 3rd birthday e.g. if your child turns 3-years-old between January 9th *– 11th August 2020, funded hours will be applied from the start of the Autumn term. This can be provided by an Edinburgh Council nursery at no cost to the parent.



Alternatively, Edinburgh Steiner School Trust is a registered partner provider nursery for Edinburgh Council, offering parents the option to part-fund their child's Kindergarten fees with the equivalent amount given to a state nursery. The Scottish Government fund £3.90 per hour.

It is not a simple calculation of $£3.90 \times 600 = £2,340$ EYC Allowance, though this figure has been applied to the annual fees below to give a rough guide to help with feasibility considerations.

Sessions per week	Annual Cost 2020/21 after EYC funding applied	Monthly Aug - July	Per hour After EYC funding applied	Eligibility
2*	£1,920	£160	£6.55	<p>An eligible child is defined in legislation <i>without</i> reference to immigration status.</p> <p>All children eligible from term after 3rd birthday until P1 age. Note: Children aged 4 at start of P1 can defer a year. If born between Jan-Feb 2016, automatically receive further year EYC funding. If born Sep – Dec 2015, funding is at discretion of Edinburgh Council.</p>
3	£2,845	£237	£6.44	
4	£3,805	£317	£6.49	
5	£3,752	£313	£5.13	

*January – April born children would have normally been eligible to start in the Spring Term 2020; however, owing to the coronavirus crisis, only children of key workers attended nurseries.

Early Years & Childcare (EYC): Full Day

The EYC funding can be applied to playgroup / Kindergarten fees; or a combination of Playgroup / Kindergarten and Afternoon Care, up to a maximum of 8 hours a day.

Sessions	3.15pm			5pm		
	Annual 2020/21	Monthly Aug - July	£/hour	Annual 2020/21	Monthly Aug - July	£/hour
2	£2,224	£185	£4.90/hr	£2,478	£206	£4.31
3	£3,633	£303	£5.31/hr	£4,725	£394	£5.45
4	£5,615	£468	£6.18/hr	£7,064	£589	£6.14
5	£6,074	£506	£5.36/hr	£7,880	£657	£5.50

It is important to note here that whilst the EYC amount is stipulated at £3.90/hour (2020/21), it is allocated to your chosen provider on a termly basis, based on state school dates (which may differ to those of a partner provider¹. This will affect the total allowance provided slightly, as funds are applied to days a child is at Kindergarten only). Eligibility for EYC deductions stop once the child is of age to take up a place in Primary 1.

If your child turns 5-years-old between March 2020 – February 2021, EYC will stop being applied in the new academic year, beginning August 2020.

If you request for 'Deferred Entry' to P1 or equivalent and this is accepted by Edinburgh Council, you are eligible for a further full academic year of funded early learning and childcare allowance (see page 14 for more details).

2 Year Olds

¹ As an example, the start of Edinburgh Steiner School's academic year is around two weeks later than state schools/nurseries. A child will therefore not be paid these dates in the council system.

Eligibility can start once your child turns two if you are in receipt of certain [benefits](#).

A parent who can take up the Early Years Childcare (EYC) scheme is able to subsidize the cost of childcare in Playgroup for a child aged 2 and above.

The hours of playgroup are term time Monday – Friday, 8.40am – 12.55pm.

The daily rhythm of Playgroup is between 8.50am - 12.50pm to allow for dropping off an older sibling first; and picking up the Playgroup child first).

Children can attend two to five sessions a week. It is highly recommended to attend at least three sessions a week for the child to feel settled in the rhythm of the group.

Our Early Years provision is expanding in the near future, with the introduction of a registered playgroup for children aged 2 years and above.



Visit: <https://www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/funded-early-learning-and-childcare/>

Increase to Early Years and Childcare from 600 to 1,140 hours

The Scottish Government is increasing the childcare allowance available to parents to 1,140 hours (around 30 hours a week in term time). This was scheduled for August 2020; however, owing to the coronavirus crisis, implementation has been postponed until August 2021.

Once implemented, parents can decide to take up the full 30 hours a week, or alternatively a reduced number of hours that is suited to their child. This provision is offered entirely free to the parent at the point of service, which differs to the current top-up provision.

However, many independent schools (as well as independent nurseries) have opted out of the government scheme to expand free early learning provision to working parents, owing to the funded rate of £5.60/hour being considered not sustainable to cover the costs of providing childcare of a standard our children deserve. This also means the removal of the 16-hours subsidized provision.



Edinburgh Steiner School strives to offer parents and children an important alternative to mainstream nurseries. An in-depth assessment is being undertaken by the Board of Trustees, Early Years Group and College of Teachers on whether the School can continue to be a provider of EYC when the hours increase from 600 to 1,140. Part of this proposal is to develop our campus to facilitate increasing our Kindergarten places to 60, creating a larger Playgroup room, and absorb the shortfall in fees to continue to provide a holistic childcare, delivered by experienced Kindergarten teachers, in an unhurried, tech-free, child-friendly environment.

It is anticipated that early experience of a Steiner education will encourage larger numbers to transition from Kindergarten to Class 1. As a not-for-profit for the advancement of education, it will contribute greatly towards our efforts in providing an education which delicately balances being socially inclusive with running a School which is financially sustainable.

Continuing to provide EYC extends the opportunity for a parent to return to employment / more regular working hours whilst their child is enabled to develop independence, meet new friends, learn social skills and take part in meaningful play from a pastoral Kindergarten education that is comprehensive and stimulating.

This encourages our youngest children to be at ease with themselves and to be eager, creative and responsive when they begin their formal education in Class 1.

We very much support the principle that this could make Steiner education more accessible. However, an in-depth review of the potential significant financial losses the new changes may bring has led to the Board of Trustees to decide it is not sustainable for our school to be part of this local council provision whilst we face the uncertainty around the coronavirus pandemic and what the impact will be to the school from this. The coronavirus crisis has meant this will need to be looked at again for the academic year 2021/22.

Four-Year-Olds: Deferred Entry to P1

The school year begins in August. Local legislation decrees that a single school year group consists of children born between the beginning of March in one year and the end of February the following year, aged 4 ½ - 5 ½ years old. Children who defer entry to school tend to start school at 5 ½ - 6 years old.

January / February 2016 children:	15 August - 31 December 2015 child:
If your child is 4 years old at the beginning of the new academic year in August 2020, <u>your request</u> for deferred entry will be approved automatically once we've processed the paperwork.	If your child is due to turn 5 soon after the beginning of the new academic year in August 2020 your application request for deferred entry will be considered by Edinburgh council.
You are eligible for a further year of funded early learning and childcare.	You are not automatically entitled to extra funding.

Apply: Contact Edinburgh Steiner School to request deferred entry to P1. The Kindergarten teacher will explain the process and have the paperwork. You must complete the paperwork with the Kindergarten teacher, who must counter sign it.

Deadline for requests was **31 March 2020**. You must **apply with your nursery well in advance** of this so Edinburgh Council receive your application on time. To request deferment after this date, following the closure of the Kindergartens and School on 20th March 2020, in line with Government guidelines due to the coronavirus crisis, please email: school.placements@edinburgh.gov.uk



Cooking

Once a week the children bring in vegetables for that day's soup. The older Kindergarten children help chop, peel, grater, learning the safe use of utensils such as a sharp knife.

An understanding of seasonal produce, nutrition and preparing fresh food are being developed experientially. The children also grow their own vegetables in the garden. The environment encourages a food culture that helps children enjoy healthy eating.

Campaigning for Kindergarten

Scotland is one of the few countries in Europe where formal education can begin as young as 4.5 years old. Formal learning (desk based learning) is delayed until the age of six or seven years in a Steiner Waldorf school, allowing pupils to develop literacy, numeracy and social skills through play-based learning in the [Kindergarten](#). When they enter the Lower School, our pupils are ready to embrace formal learning.

"5 was chosen during the industrial revolution to get the mothers into work and the children through education in 5 years" says Vice Chair of [Upstart Scotland](#), Kate Johnstone, who is campaigning for an early years educational model similar to that found in Steiner Schools. "This does not mean no education before, but a kindergarten stage from 3 - 7" Kate continues.

[Give Them Time](#) campaigns for an end to the 'birthday discrimination felt by parents of 4-year-old children wanting to defer their child's P1 or equivalent place in school; and a greater awareness of their legal right to do so.

An FOI request revealed that [Edinburgh Council](#) received 97 requests to defer with funding in 2019/20: 34 from a private/voluntary setting and 63 from a council-run setting. 16 and 43 respectively were granted. Of the 25 appeals that followed these decisions, 13 were upheld.

In a [parliamentary motion](#) in October 2019 all parties agreed to end this discrimination against children born between September - December. Maree Todd, Minister for Children and Young People, would not commit to this being implemented by August 2020.

Tax-Free Childcare

Families can receive up to £2,000 a year (£500 every 3 months) free for each child aged 11-years-old or younger to help with the costs of childcare by an approved childcare provider. This can be received in conjunction with EYC Funding.

Funds in your Tax-Free Childcare account can be used to pay for:

- Playgroup fees
- Kindergarten fees (for children under Primary school age)
- Afternoon Care (Kindergarten to Class 5)
- After-school Clubs (Kindergarten to Class 5)
- Summer Camp (Kindergarten to Class 5)

The government will pay £2 for every £8 paid into the childcare account. It essentially brings down childcare costs by a fifth. This is paid via an online childcare account that you set up for your child.

You'll need to expect to earn at least 16-hours a week at National Minimum Wage (£8.72 for 25+ year olds) to be eligible. This equates to £139.52/week; £605/month; £7,255/year.

If you or your partner have an 'adjusted net income' over £100,000 in the current tax year you will not be eligible. This includes any bonuses expected.

This government scheme replaces the Salary Sacrifice system operated through employers, and importantly now is open to those who are self-employed as well as employed. It is no longer operated through your employer.

You can set up a Tax Free Childcare Account [here](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare): <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare>. It takes 20 minutes to apply. You'll need your details (and your partner's, if you have one), including your:

- National Insurance number
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) if you're self-employed

You can pay your provider with money from your account once the money is shown as 'available funds'. It usually takes 3 working days for the money to reach your provider's account.

The graph below shows Edinburgh Steiner School's annual Playgroup and Kindergarten fees, deducting the estimated **EYC Allowance**, and assumes payment through a **Tax-Free Childcare** Account, set up by the parent.



Sessions per week	Annual 2020/21	Monthly Aug - July	Per hour	Eligibility
2	£1,536	£128	£5.24	Open to all EU & EEA nationals, those with leave to remain with recourse to NRPF and those with settled status. Income: Must earn between £140 - £1,923 per week before tax. Childcare: child aged 11 and younger in approved childcare setting, such as Edinburgh Steiner School.
3	£2,276	£190	£5.15	
4	£3,044	£254	£5.19	
5	£3,002	£250	£4.11	
				Does not include school fees for child aged P1 and over.

Please note: If your child turns 5 between March 2020 – February 2021, Tax Free Childcare can be applied to Afternoon Care only in the new academic year beginning August 2020. This is because the child is then eligible for a state funded place in P1, beginning in mid- August 2020.

It cannot be used to pay for tuition fees for School, or for a child in Kindergarten who could otherwise be in Primary 1 or 2. A child stops being eligible on 1 September after his/her 11th birthday.

You cannot get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as claiming Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers. Before considering taking out Tax-Free Childcare it's worth checking eligibility for Universal Credit as it's likely it'll cover more of the cost.



EYC & Tax-Free Childcare: Full Day

The Playgroup and Kindergarten offer afternoon care for families who need extra childcare after the morning session on Mondays-Fridays, term time only.

Afternoon care at Edinburgh Steiner School is registered childcare. It is therefore eligible to count as part of your child's **600 EYC allowance**. This is relevant if your child is attending 2 - 3 sessions per week. Children attending 4-5 sessions per week use their 600 hours during Kindergarten hours.

Afternoon care is also eligible to be paid from your **Tax-Free childcare** account, reducing the cost by 20%.

Sessions	Annual	Monthly	3.15pm	Annual	Monthly	5pm
	2020/21	Aug - July	£/hour	2020/21	Aug - July	£/hour
2	£1,779	£148	£3.82	£1,982	£165	£3.45
3	£2,906	£242	£4.24	£3,780	£315	£4.36
4	£4,492	£374	£4.94	£5,651	£471	£4.91
5	£4,859	£405	£4.29	£6,304	£525	£4.40

Edinburgh Steiner school does not generally recommend full time wraparound care for younger children. By the request of parents, however, there is provision from 8.40am until 5pm.

Working Tax Credit (Universal Credit)

Working parents can claim back up to 85% of childcare costs through Universal Credit. This government benefit is replacing six other benefits, including Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

Who's entitled to it is complex, but as a rule of thumb, if both parents are working and the family income is under £40,000/year, it's worth checking eligibility by visiting the government's non-jargon Money Advice Services website here: <https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/categories/universal-credit>

Some with a higher household income but high childcare costs may even be able to get it too.

How much you can get – and if you're entitled to it – depends on individual circumstances, but the childcare costs element can cover up to £646/month for one child, and up to £1,108/month for two or more children if it is by a registered provider, such as Edinburgh Steiner School.

You can check if a childcare provider is approved in Scotland through the Scottish Care Inspectorate: Edinburgh Steiner School, has a Quality Grade of Good to Very Good in every category assessed, registering in 2002. [View Care Inspectorate report](#) (2019)



Working parents can claim back up to 85% of childcare costs through **Universal Credit**.

Up to £646/month for one child, and up to £1,108/month for two or more children is offered to working parents if the childcare is by a registered provider, such as the Edinburgh Steiner School Kindergarten

(and soon, our Playgroup too).

Kindergarten children of P1-age

Sessions	Annual 2020/21	Monthly Aug - July	Per hour	Paid Through Tax-free childcare account	Paid through Tax-Free Childcare account Annual / Monthly / hourly
8.40am – 12.55pm 4 hrs 15 mins 5 days: £6,092	£35.42/day 172 days	£508	£8.33	n/a	n/a £6,092 / £508/ £8.33
8.40am - 3.15pm 6 hrs 35 mins 5 days: £8,414	£48.92/day Up to 172 days	£701	£7.43	£46.22/day Up to 172 days	£7,950 £663/month £7.09/hour
8.40am - 5pm 8 hrs 20 mins 5 days: £10,220	£59.42/day Up to 172 days	£852	£7.13	£54.62/day Up to 172 days	£9,395 £783/month £6.56

4-year-old Kindergarten children of P1-age are eligible to apply to defer if their birthday is between September 2015 and February 2016 (see page 12).

A bursary is available for any child not in receipt of Early Years and Childcare (EYC) funding from Edinburgh Council (see page 19).

[Research connects too early school start with long-term damage to mental health](#)

[Starting age in Europe's most successful countries is seven](#)

[Neuroscientists urge that children need time and space to play](#)

[Studies find NO academic advantage to an early start on formal learning](#)

Learning Through Play:

EXAMPLES OF HOW EARLY LEARNING GOALS ARE COVERED THROUGH CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

	P.S & E	COMM. L & L	MATHS	K & U	PHYSICAL	CREATIVE
PAINTING	Observation of each other, help and support, persisting in activity	Colour mixing, name recognition,	Repeated patterns, shape and use of space	Colour understanding, observation of colours in environment	Control of paint & brush	Differentiation of colour (mixing), texture
DRAWING	Involvement in and discussion of subject.	Recording, discussion of subject, emergent writing (mark making)	Pattern, mark and number making (eg: birthday card with candles and numbers). Sorting crayons	Depiction of events, observation	Pencil/crayon control	Extension of imaginative ideas, descriptions of picture reporting of events
BAKING	Sharing and exchanging dough, contributing to the whole loaf to be shared later at snack.	Recording and discussion of content of bread mix, discussion of things made from dough	Weighing, measuring, counting, number work and quantity	Use and origin of ingredients, purpose of bread making, outcome, operating equipment.	Repeated movements, physical and manipulative skills	Outcome, dialogue about what is made during the kneading, creations and stories told about them.
SEWING	Building confidence, challenge and achievement.	Design, problem solving, discussion	Counting, measuring, ordering, sequencing,	Observation, uses, choice of design	Manipulative skills, control of different materials,	Design, outcome, use of different natural materials.
WOODWORK	Adult input, building and mending toys, discussion of ideas and helping peers.	Research and design of project.	Problem solving, measuring, counting, construction	Purpose of, how and why tools work, working with different mediums.	Development of manipulative skills in use of tools and equipment, control	Make 3D construction from various natural materials
ROLE PLAY	Social interaction, conflict resolution, respect for each other.	Increasing vocabulary in imaginary situations, sequencing and memory dev.	Curiosity and observation, use of number in variety of ways	Personal events, understanding of world around them	Building constructions with large or small objects to assist role play.	Observation, use of imitation and imagination to extend roles, uses of different materials.
TIDYING	Following instructions, respect and care of environment. Helping others.	Motivation, sequencing, choosing correct containers	Sorting, counting, sequencing	Care of environment, knowledge of correct place and where objects belong.	Arrangement and manipulation of small and large materials.	Initiative, concentration, sticking to task.

Third Child Reduction



We offer a 25% discount on the fees of a third child and any subsequent children enrolled in Playgroup upwards, providing all attend the Edinburgh Steiner School.

This is applied automatically to your account and does not need to be applied for.

Edinburgh Steiner Family Support Fund

Whilst this fund is not directly relevant to parents of children in Kindergarten, it is included here for comfort of mind when considering the long-term financial commitments of opting for an all-through independent school.

Any parent with a child in Class 2 to 12 will be able to apply for Family Support subject to the criteria set out on our website, on a need basis only. In summary, the intention of the fund is to provide emergency financial support for pupils who have been in the kindergarten or school for some time but who otherwise may have to consider leaving for financial reasons. The trustees distribute 1% of the previous financial year's net fee income for the forthcoming session.

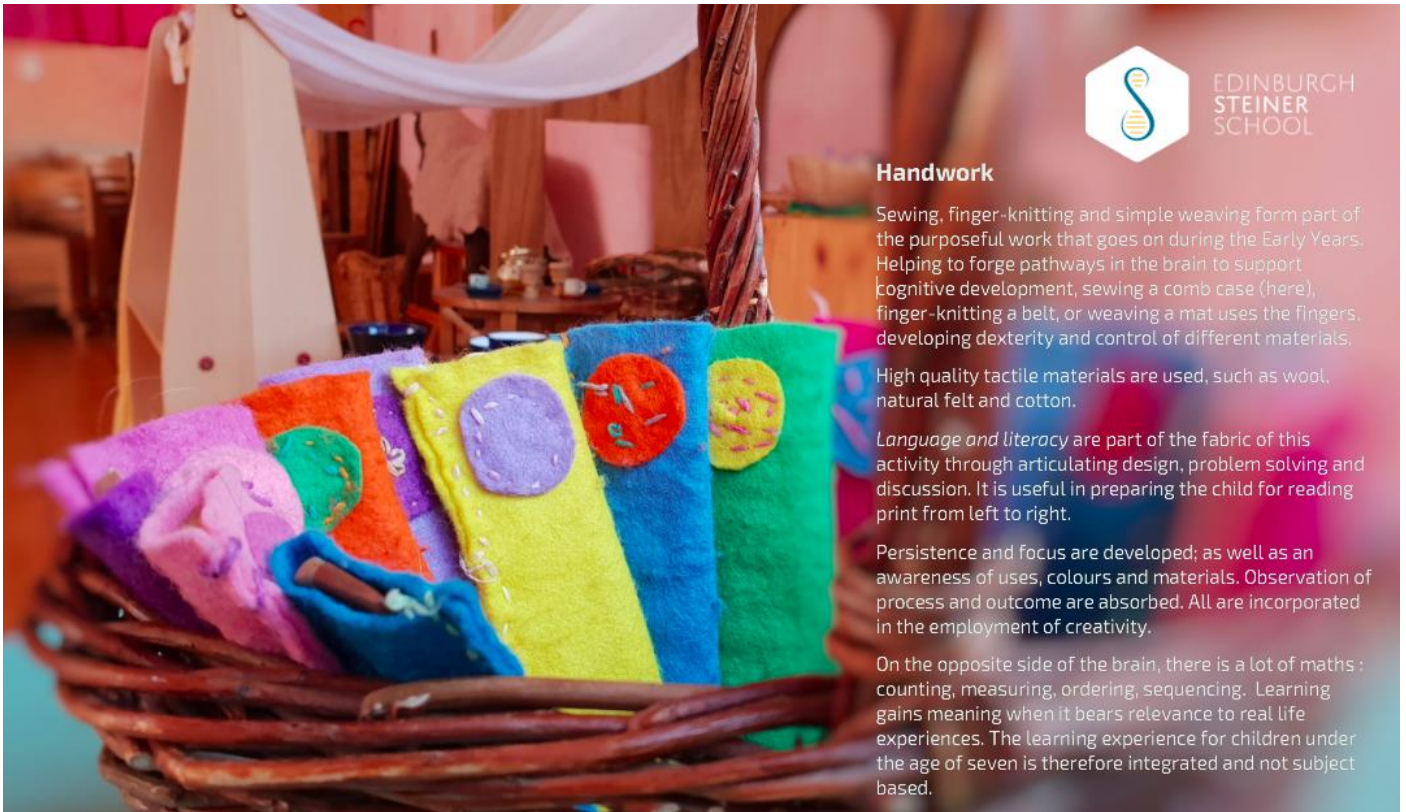
Edinburgh Steiner School Bursary

Bursaries are available to help fund a proportion of the fees for qualifying families. The trustees distribute 5% of the previous financial year's net fee income for the forthcoming session, awarding eligible families up to a maximum 40% of the fees. Criteria summary:

- Bursaries are open to current pupils and to new pupils who have already been offered a place at the school.
- They are available for classes 1 - 12 inclusive **and now also available for any child attending Kindergarten who will not be receiving Edinburgh City Council nursery funding in the academic year 2019/20.**
- All awards are means-tested, taking account of both income and capital criteria:
 - Income: below £49,000 total gross household income from all sources per annum.
 - Capital: assets excluding main residence do not exceed £28,000
- The Trustees reserve the right to vary the criteria for Bursaries each year
- Applications for financial assistance are accepted between **February - April** of each year for the following session. A strict deadline for applications will be published.
- A fresh application is required each year. Details on the criteria can be found [here](#).

Please note: a bursary is awarded towards Kindergarten/School fees only; the up to 40% reduction is not applied to Afternoon Care costs (which are charged separately).

Sessions per week	Annual 2020/21	Bursary (up to 40%) 60 – 100% fees:	After bursary Monthly
8.40am – 12.55pm 4 hrs 15 mins	£6,092	£3,655 – £6,092	£305 - £508
8.40am - 3.15pm 6 hrs 35 mins	£8,414	£5,977 - £8,414 £2,322	£498 - £702
8.40am - 5pm 8 hrs 20 mins	£10,220	£7,783 – £10,220	£649 - £852



EDINBURGH
STEINER
SCHOOL

Handwork

Sewing, finger-knitting and simple weaving form part of the purposeful work that goes on during the Early Years. Helping to forge pathways in the brain to support cognitive development, sewing a comb case (here), finger-knitting a belt, or weaving a mat uses the fingers, developing dexterity and control of different materials.

High quality tactile materials are used, such as wool, natural felt and cotton.

Language and literacy are part of the fabric of this activity through articulating design, problem solving and discussion. It is useful in preparing the child for reading print from left to right.

Persistence and focus are developed; as well as an awareness of uses, colours and materials. Observation of process and outcome are absorbed. All are incorporated in the employment of creativity.

On the opposite side of the brain, there is a lot of maths: counting, measuring, ordering, sequencing. Learning gains meaning when it bears relevance to real life experiences. The learning experience for children under the age of seven is therefore integrated and not subject based.

Priceless: Low-tech Early Years Environment

About three quarters of the parent body at sister Steiner school 'Waldorf School of the Peninsula' – in the heart of the U.S. centre for innovative technology companies – work in the sector in some way, including high level techpreneurs at Ebay, Amazon, Apple and Yahoo. They, like many of our parents, are choosing a screen-free, broad, education for their children.

It was noted by school inspectors that Edinburgh Steiner School is situated in a city viewed as a mini Silicon Valley, with an ambition to become the data capital of Europe. It has a leading tech ecosystem, with an estimated 66,000 people employed in the sector (7% of the workforce). Our Early Years provision, nonetheless, is entirely screen-free.



It was noted by school inspectors that at the other end of a pupil's school career, an above average number of Edinburgh Steiner alumni engage in entrepreneurial activities, reflecting the success of the education in developing flexible thinking and a determination to see projects come to fruition; skills highly prized in today's society. Steiner Waldorf schools, kindergartens and playgroups consider the child-friendly architecture, environment and curriculum for children, so that wonder, imagination and creativity thrive. Television, media and screens are incompatible in the younger years with the holistic education we are striving to deliver.

[Find out why.](#)

Playgroup & Kindergarten Session dates 2020/21

Autumn Term 2020

Term begins:	Thursday 27 August (Kindergarten begins Friday 28 August)
September holiday:	Monday 21 September
Half Term:	Friday 16 October (1pm) – Tuesday 27 October inclusive
Advent Prep Day:	Thursday 26 November and Friday 27 November
Term ends:	Thursday 17 December (1pm)

Spring Term 2021

Term begins:	Thursday 7 January
Half Term:	Friday 5 February (1pm) – Friday 12 February inclusive
Term ends:	Thursday 1 April (1pm) (Easter = 4 April)

Summer Term 2021

Term begins:	Wednesday 21 April
Half Term:	Friday 14 May (1pm) – Wednesday 19 May inclusive
Term ends:	Wednesday 30 June (1pm) (Kindergarten ends Tuesday 29 June)

Payment

Fees for a full session are payable by direct debit in twelve monthly instalments from August to July inclusive. In the event of any instalment not being met timeously, 10% interest per annum will be charged from the due date until payment. Please contact the [School Bursar](#) if you have difficulty making payment.

Please note that only fees are payable by direct debit. All other sessions are billed separately and payable within 30 days of any invoice being sent.

Notice Period

If you wish to withdraw a child from school you must give written notice to the School Bursar one full term before the last day your child attends School. If a child is withdrawn without appropriate notice the fees for that term are payable.