

Early Education Provider Timeline, Academic Year 2026/27		
✓ Guides to The Education Portal & submitting funding claims available here		✓ Information about EY SEND Funding available here
Autumn 2026		
Date	Item	Details
Monday 31 August	Working Parent Entitlement Eligibility Codes	Final date for families to be issued codes for Autumn Term. Action Required: Check that all the eligibility codes for the Working Parent Entitlement at your setting are valid for Autumn by this date. Children should not be allowed to start without a valid code. Contact Early Education Team with any code queries.
Tuesday 1 September	Start of Autumn Term. Any Working Parent Entitlement eligibility codes issued from today may not be valid in this term	
	Submission Due - EY SEND Funding	Action Required: September SEND Panel application cut off. Submit applications for Early Years SEND funding by this date.
Sunday 13 September	Early Learning for 2 Year Olds (EL2)	For information: Action for families; 2 Year old application deadline to claim a full term. Forms received on or before this date will be processed and eligible families issued with a reference number ready for the headcount period opening. You can claim a full term of funding for these children.
Wednesday 16 September	EY SEND Funding - September Panel	For Information: Panel Meeting. Forms received by 1/9/2026 will be reviewed at the panel meeting. Details of the outcome and any payment due will be sent within 15 working days from the panel date.
Tuesday 29 September	Submission Due - EY SEND Funding	Action Required: October SEND Panel application cut off. Submit applications for Early Years SEND funding by this date.
Thursday 1 October	Autumn Headcount / Census Day - Claim Period Opens on the Education Portal	
Thursday 1 - Friday 9 October	Submission Due - Headcount	Action Required: Autumn Headcount submission on Education Portal. Submit a headcount for all funded children using the Education Portal before 9/10/2026.
Friday 9 October	Autumn Headcount - Claim Period Closes on the Education Portal	
Wednesday 14 October	EY SEND Funding - October Panel	For Information: Panel Meeting. Forms received by 29/9/2026 will be reviewed at the panel meeting. Details of the outcome and any payment due will be sent within 15 working days from the panel date.
Friday 23 October	Working Parent Entitlement Eligibility Codes	Action Required: Check that all the eligibility codes at your setting are valid for next term. Advise parents/carers to reconfirm their code if they enter or are due to enter the grace period. Advise families intending to start a Working Parent Entitlement place to apply for a code. Children cannot start a place in the grace period.
Sunday 1 November	Early Learning for 2 Year Olds (EL2)	For information: Action for families; 2 Year old application deadline to claim funding for 2nd half of term. Forms received by this date will be processed and issued with a reference number by 9/11/2026.
Tuesday 3 November	Submission Due - EY SEND Funding	Action Required: November SEND Panel application cut off. Submit applications for Early Years SEND funding by this date.
Monday 9 November	Submission Due - 2 Year old mid-term joiner claim	Action Required: Submit a mid term joiner claim for any 2 Year Olds who are new to funding and have started at your setting since Headcount day. If applicable you will receive the funding with your balancing payment. This does NOT include 2 year olds who have already received funding and want to move from one setting to another. This is for Early Learning for 2 Year Olds (EL2).
Wednesday 18 November	EY SEND Funding - November Panel	For Information: Panel Meeting. Forms received by 3/11/2026 will be reviewed at the panel meeting. Details of the outcome and any payment due will be sent within 15 working days from the panel date.
Tuesday 24 November	Submission Due - EY SEND Funding	Action Required: December SEND Panel application cut off. Submit applications for Early Years SEND funding by this date.
Wednesday 9 December	EY SEND Funding - December Panel	For Information: Panel Meeting. Forms received by 24/11/2026 will be reviewed at the panel meeting. Details of the outcome and any payment due will be sent within 15 working days from the panel date.
Thursday 31 December	Working Parent Entitlement Eligibility Codes	Final date for families to be issued codes for Spring Term. Action Required: Check that all the eligibility codes for the Working Parent Entitlement at your setting are valid for Spring by this date. Children should not be allowed to start without a valid code. Contact Early Education Team with any code queries.
	End of Autumn term	

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Spring 2027		
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Date	Item	Details
Friday 1 January	Start of Spring term. Any Working Parent Entitlement eligibility codes issued from today may not be valid in this term	
Tuesday 5 January	Submission Due - EY SEND Funding	Action Required: January SEND Panel application cut off. Submit applications for Early Years SEND funding by this date.
Sunday 10 January	Early Learning for 2 Year Olds (EL2)	For information: Action for families; 2 Year old application deadline to claim a full term. Forms received on or before this date will be processed and eligible families issued with a reference number ready for the headcount period opening. You can claim a full term of funding for these children.
Wednesday 20 January	EY SEND Funding - January Panel	For Information: Panel Meeting. Forms received by 5/1/2027 will be reviewed at the panel meeting. Details of the outcome and any payment due will be sent within 15 working days from the panel date.
Thursday 21 January	Spring Headcount / Census Day - Claim Period Opens on the Education Portal	
Thursday 21 January to Friday 29 January	Submission Due - Headcount	Action Required: Spring Headcount submission on Education Portal. Submit a headcount for all funded children using the Education Portal before 29/1/2027.
Friday 29 January	Claim Period Closes on the Education Portal	
Tuesday 2 February	Submission Due - EY SEND Funding	Action Required: February SEND Panel application cut off. Submit applications for Early Years SEND funding by this date.
Friday 12 February	Working Parent Entitlement Eligibility Codes	Action Required: Check that all the eligibility codes at your setting are valid for next term. Advise parents/carers to reconfirm their code if they enter or are due to enter the grace period. Advise families intending to start a Working Parent Entitlement place to apply for a code. Children cannot start a place in the grace period.
Sunday 14 February	Early Learning for 2 Year Olds (EL2)	For information: Action for families; 2 Year old application deadline to claim funding for 2nd half of term. Forms received by this date will be processed and issued with a reference number by 22/2/2027.
Wednesday 17 February	EY SEND Funding - February Panel	For Information: Panel Meeting. Forms received by 2/2/2027 will be reviewed at the panel meeting. Details of the outcome and any payment due will be sent within 15 working days from the panel date.
Monday 22 February	Submission Due - 2 Year old mid-term joiner claim	Action Required: Submit a mid term joiner claim for any 2 Year Olds who are new to funding and have started at your setting since Headcount day. If applicable you will receive the funding with your balancing payment. This does NOT include 2 year olds who have already received funding and want to move from one setting to another. This is for Early Learning for 2 Year Olds (EL2).
Tuesday 9 March	Submission Due - EY SEND Funding	Action Required: March SEND Panel application cut off. Submit applications for Early Years SEND funding by this date.
Wednesday 24 March	EY SEND Funding - March Panel	For Information: Panel Meeting. Forms received by 9/3/2027 will be reviewed at the panel meeting. Details of the outcome and any payment due will be sent within 15 working days from the panel date.
Wednesday 31 March	Working Parent Entitlement Eligibility Codes	Final date for families to be issued codes for Summer Term.
		Action Required: Check that all the eligibility codes for the Working Parent Entitlement at your setting are valid for Summer by this date. Children should not be allowed to start without a valid code. Contact Early Education Team with any code queries.
	End of Spring term	