BALLARD

BESPOKE EDUCATION

Co-educational School of the Year 2024/25

Nursery and Kindergarten Fact Sheet

Welcome to our 'Outstanding' Nursery and Kindergarten for children aged two to four years old.

Term Times and Hours

Ballard's Nursery & Kindergarten are open **34** weeks a year during term-time. You may find our term dates here.

The minimum number of sessions per week, excluding early or late club, are:

- Nursery – 4 sessions
- Kindergarten – 5 sessions

Our sessions are:

- 08.30 – 16.00 – charge for lunch
- 08.30 – 13.00 – charge for lunch
- 08.30 – 12.00 – No lunch
- 12.30 – 16.00 – No lunch
- 13.00 – 16.00 – No lunch
- 08.00 – 08.30 – Early club
- 16.00 – 17.00 – Late club

Fees

Our fees for the whole school may be viewed here.

From September 2025, the charge for non-funded hours is **£9.94** per hour and the consumable charge for funded hours is **£2.06.** Our fees include all snacks during the day, with our delicious hot lunch only costing **£4.79**. All fees are paid a term in advance.

Funded Hours

- Currently for children who are 2 years old (**term after 2nd birthday**), we will accept 15 hours per week offered by Hampshire County Council (HCC) for working parents (this will change to 30 hours in September 2025).
- For children who are aged 3 and 4 years old (**term after 3rd birthday**), we will accept the universal 15 hours per week offered from HCC. We will also accept the additional 15 hours per week for working parents offered from HCC, so a potential total of 30

hours. **Please note that the additional hours will need to be applied for in good time by the parents rather than by the school.**

- Please also note that Ballard School only offer 34 weeks entitlement out of the maximum 38 weeks. You may access the remainder of the free entitlement at another approved provider.

Staffing Ratios

Ballard follows the government guidelines for Early Years ratios, although these ratios may be lower at any one session.

These is a maximum of one adult to five (1:5) children for 2-year-olds.

For 3- and 4-year-olds, the ratio changes to one adult to eight (1:8) children.

When a qualified teacher is working with the 3 and 4-year-old children, the ratio may increase to a maximum of one adult to thirteen (1:13) children.

The Admissions Process

Enquiry & Visit

We are always happy to show you and your family around our Nursery and Kindergarten during term-time. You will be able to view all our facilities, visit the classrooms, meet the Early Years Practitioners and find out more about why our parents call us 'Simply the best school every day.' Please contact our friendly Registrar's team on 01425 626900 or email them – registrar@ballardschool.co.uk.

Registration and Settling In Session

We ask that all parents register their children in good time so that we can help you secure all the sessions that suit you best. The registration process is simple and there is a fee of £50 payable at this point. Once registered, we will invite you and your child in for a settling in session.

The aim of this session is to not only familiarise your child with their new environment but also to find out more about them. It is so important to discuss a number of topics with you at this point to ensure that we can help your child feel secure and happy when they start with us. Useful information includes what their favourite toys are, their sleep patterns, and their interests. After this conversation we will invite you to leave your child with us for half an hour, so that they can explore the learning environments independently.

We will book this session in shortly before your child is due to start our Nursery or Kindergarten. Please note that we can only offer settling in sessions on the day of the child's second birthday or when they are already two years old.

Starting At Ballard

Our experienced staff know how to nurture our children and create positive learning environments for each and every child. We tailor their experience to extend and support their learning to ensure that they have the best possible start to life@Ballard

Specialist Lessons

The timetable for 2025/26 is as follows:

- Monday – PE
- Tuesday – Dance and for Kindergarten only, Forest School
- Wednesday – PE
- Thursday – Music
- Friday - Gymnastics

Communication

We always work with you to ensure your children are thriving at Ballard.

- We encourage two-way daily communication with our staff at drop off and pick up times.
- In addition, we have termly Parent meetings to discuss your child's progress.
- In the spring term, you will receive a written report of your child's progress.
- We use an app - **Evidence Me** to update you each week with photos and information about the fun activities the children have taken part in at School.