

21.03.02

**18. Deputy L.M.C. Doublet of St. Saviour will ask the following question of the Minister for Education (OQ.53/2021):**

“Further to questions about this subject on 9th February 2021, will the Minister confirm the commitment to extending the number of weekly hours of nursery education provided by the Nursery Education Fund to 30 hours by the Autumn Term 2021; and, if he will not do so, will he explain why and state when he will be in a position to confirm such an extension?”

**The following response was provided in writing in accordance with Standing Order 63(9) as the oral question was not asked before the end of the time allowed for Oral Questions:**

The Minister can confirm the commitment which he announced on Friday 26th February. From September this year the Nursery Education Fund entitlement will be up to 30 hours free education each week, for 38 weeks, during school term-time only.

The Minister appreciates that many would have liked this confirmed earlier, but he needed to have meetings with the Jersey Early Years Association (J.E.Y.A.), that were agreed by his predecessor last year.

The Minister thanks his officials and J.E.Y.A. for progressing these important deliberations at pace and is pleased that this significant commitment to our children and their families has now been made.